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THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

October 25th—31st, 1984
Volume 19, Number 43

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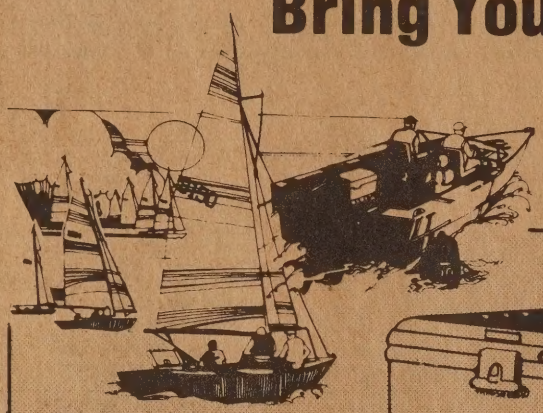

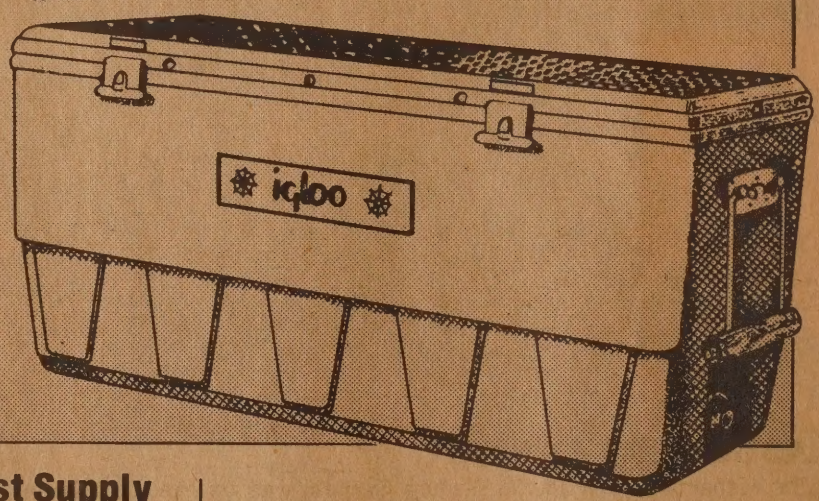

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THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND. METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

Volume 19, Number 43 October 25th, 1984

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ABOUT THE COVER:

The Fisherman's Send-A-Kid Fishing Program was once again a huge success and the people that made it happen were the many readers who contributed to the program. Nearly 600 youngsters came out winners thanks to their generous donations. A listing of those who donated to Send-A-Kid Fishing appears on pages 14 and 15. A special thanks to all of you from The Fisherman and "the kids."

Publisher: Richard Reina

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National Advertising Director: Gary Caputi

The LONG ISLAND FISHERMAN is published weekly, except for two weeks in December by the L.I.F. Publishing Corporation, L.I.F. Building, Bridge Street, P.O. Box 1994, Sag Harbor, N.Y., 11963. Telephone: 516-725-4200. Second Class Postage paid at Sag Harbor, New York. $.75 per copy, back issues $1. Subscriptions: 50 Issues, $17.50; 100 Issues, $33. Photographs and written contributions are welcomed. Unsolicited contributions become the property of The Long Island Fisherman. All contributions to be returned must be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope. All consideration will be given to these requests, however, no responsibility on our part is assumed. Notice of change of address must include both new and old addresses and sent to the Main Office. Allow two to four weeks for change. USPS 588-160.

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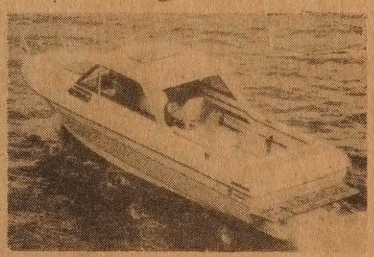

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AN OPEN LETTER FROM PATRICK HALPIN

Dear Striped Bass Fisherman,

As you may know, last year I passed an important conservation measure that set a 24 inch minimum size limit for striped bass. The bill I sponsored and fought for was drafted after the completion of a 5-year interstate study by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. By allowing stripers to reach 24 inches before harvesting them, they will have the chance to mature and spawn at least once. By all accounts—except some commercial fishing interests—the law is sound conservation policy and will help preserve the dwindling striped bass population, giving this magnificent species the chance to replenish itself.

But, though many of us thought that the issue had finally been resolved after ten years of divisive and intense debate, legislators acting on behalf of the commercial fishing interests tried an eleventh hour maneuver to gut the 1983 law. Two days before Session was scheduled to end, a bill was introduced that would allow for a 100 pound by-catch of striped bass under 24 inches. Proponents argued that this would allow the commercial fishermen to keep the striped bass that they supposedly catch inadvertently, while still allowing the majority of stripers to prosper.

The problems that would have followed had this bill passed are many: anyone who is even remotely familiar with the State Environmental Conservation Department knows that they simply don't have the resources to enforce a by-catch; the Interstate Striped Bass Management Plan calls for a 55 percent reduction in striped bass landings—this bill is absolutely contrary to that recommendation; if we were to do this, there is a very real possibility that we would be faced with a Federally imposed moratorium on all striped bass fishing; and the 1983 law has not had time to work—why not give it a chance?

These are the arguments I presented to my colleagues on the Environmental Conservation Committee during the last days of Session when I learned of the bill's existence. And I was successful in blocking this attempt to weaken the new law protecting stripers.

My point in writing, though, is to let you know that there are some very powerful commercial fishing interests who are still trying to gut the law. We must remain vigilant. They have shown that they'll stop at nothing. It seems that they are more interested in commercial gain than saving the striper from extinction.

At one time, when stripers were running, the surf would be full of them. Their numbers were so plentiful and the schools so large that we didn't even think that they might one day be on the edge of extinction.

But the days of huge schools are gone and the majesty of stripers breaking the surf are mere memories. But we don't have to accept this fate. It is my dream that through prudent management and some help from the State and Federal Governments we will once again see the days when stripers are plentiful. *Patrick G. Halpin, Member of Assembly.*

FINAL COMMENTS ON '84 SEND-A-KID FISHING PROGRAM

Dear Fred,

On behalf of Big Brothers and Sisters of Nassau County and the eleven agencies that participated in the Send-A-Kid Fishing Program, I would like to thank you for the very enjoyable fishing trips that were donated.

We want to thank The Long Island Fisherman and all of those who contributed to make this Program a great success. Many children benefited from a great experience that they would not have had if not for the generosity of everyone involved. Sincerely, *Michael Auerbach, Project Director.*

* * *

Dear Fred,

I want to officially extend my thanks to your readers and your organization for the fishing trip that was made available to the residents of Nassau Children's House. I must have taught them all I know because they only caught three fish! The guys had an enjoyable day. Our thanks. *Gerard McCaffery, Assistant Director.*

* * *

Dear Fred,

On behalf of the Islip-East Islip Youth Development Corporation, we want to thank you for offering our youth the opportunity to participate in the Send-A-Kid Fishing Program. Needless to say, the children enjoyed themselves immensely and were able to experience something that will surely be the highlight of their summer vacation. We cannot express enough appreciation for your very generous and thoughtful offer. Many thanks, *Kathryn Croke, Director; Rosemary Tominaro, Program Coordinator.*

* * *

Dear Fred,

The Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County are pleased to present your fine publication with a check for $100 toward your Send-A-Kid Fishing Program. Our fishing club takes approximately 80 to 100 orphans on a fishing trip every year from various orphanages in our county. Consequently, we know the value and positive

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direction of your program, and we are glad to be of assistance to your organization on your most worthwhile endeavor. Sincerely, *John J. Toth, President, Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County.*

WANTS SURF CLUB IN BABYLON/ISLIP AREA

Dear Sirs:

Please find enclosed a check for $15.20 for one copy of Surf Fishing with the Experts.

Also, any information on surf fishing clubs in the Babylon, Islip area would be appreciated.

Best wishes and tight lines. *Steve Wirth, 518 11th Street, West Babylon, NY 11704.*

The best way to handle this is to let your letter speak for itself. Any clubs out there interested in this eager-beaver, send a note and we'll put it in Club News *so all interested can contact the club.* Dr. W.A. Muller.

DRAGS

I am very confused. I know that some drags are supposed to be lubricated, and some are not, but which ones are which? I own about ten reels, and each has a different drag system. Some drags are smooth, and some are not. I clean and lubricate my reels when they get covered with a light layer of salt, or whenever I have nothing better to do. Therefore, my reels are quite clean. Usually, I spray my reel parts (including drag washers) with WD-40, and eventually wipe off the excess and apply a light grease (Penn's Reel Lube) to parts that need it. I also apply a drop or two of this to each side of the drag washers, as some manufacturers recommend. However, a guy at the tackle shop that I go to says that this contributes to the washers' stickiness. On one particular reel, he seems to be correct. It's a Shimano Bantam 300, which has a single, black washer which is hard to describe. I am hoping you are familiar with it, but here goes. It looks like it may be made of a wax-like substance on the outside, which may contribute to its slippage qualities, and has a black composite on the inside. I replaced the sticky one with a new one, and it's doing well, but the old one was saturated with oil and grease, and felt sticky to the touch.

On the contrary, other reels that have gone through the same treatment have smooth drags. One such reel is my Penn 209 Levelwind, which has had Teflon washers for two years. The old leather ones got flattened out of shape because I constantly kept my drag on, even when it was hanging on its rack. The new drag is okay, but sometimes, I get the feeling that it's too slippery because it can't control a running fish. I no longer put any grease on this particular reel.

I'm sure you can understand my situation. What I would like to know is what drag materials should be lubricated with what, and what drags

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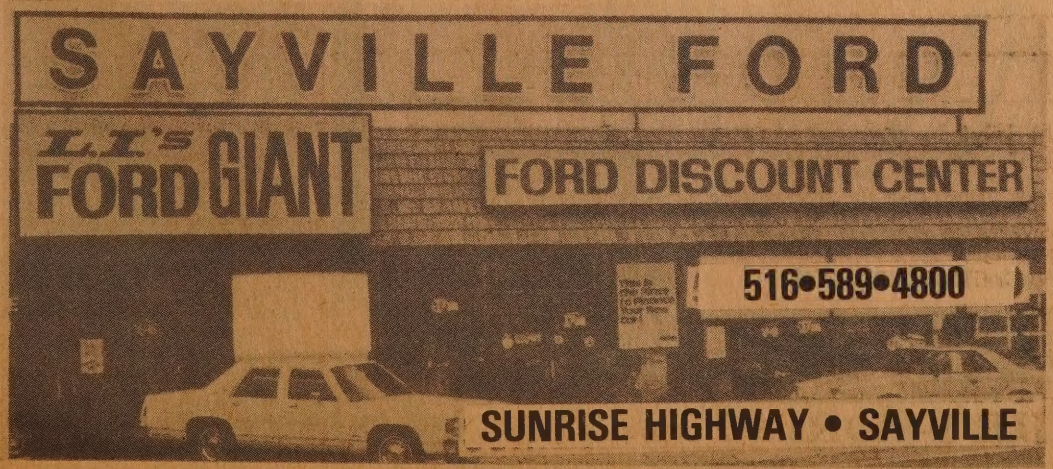

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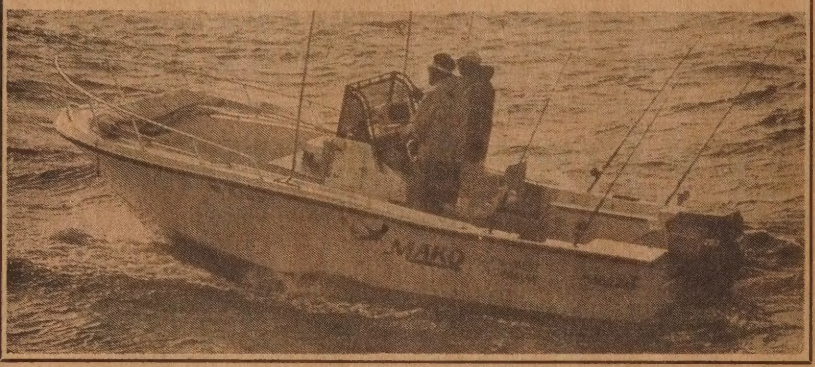

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shouldn't be lubricated at all. Also, what drag material do you consider to be the best overall performer? Does the same apply to spinning reels as well? Sorry about the length of this letter, but it's something I just had to settle once and forever. Thank you and keep up the great work you're doing at LIF. Sincerely yours, *Frank Sakai.*

Spraying your reels with WD-40 or similar product is a very good idea because it lubricates, displaces water and prevents salt and dirt build-up that can lead to wear. However, do not spray your drag mechanism with WD-40 or similar product. What you do to your drags, with respect to lubrication depends upon the design of the drag and its materials. A number of different materials are used to make drag washers, including metal, Teflon, and fiber washers. How many of each varies from reel to reel. We suggest you begin with a cleaning and lubrication schedule as suggested by the manufacturer as you say you have been doing. The sticky nature that a washer develops with use results from a breakdown of the lubricating substance under heat and pressure. A powerful running fish can generate so much friction on a run (under the pressure of the drag mechanism) that the lubrication and washer material begin to break down and even smoke. I have seen several reels smoke under the running pressure of a large tropical game fish. One of those reels was mine! A small bait casting reel with a very large permit on the other end. You do not say you use a Shimano lubricant for the Shimano reel. Although your letter isn't clear on this point, I take it you are using the Penn lube on the Shimano. The two lubricants are not identical. Try using the lubricant that comes with the Shimano reel. It is a light lube in a small clear plastic vial. If your washer still gets sticky, write to Shimano. Drags are tricky things. Generally, however, following manufacturers' recommendations will avoid problems. Once in awhile, it doesn't work out for a variety of reasons. When I have had this problem it was because my personal preferences on how a drag should work didn't mesh with those of the manfacturer and perhaps most fishermen. I have replaced washers with new ones of totally different materials, usually Teflon. I have, with the help of a friend who is a machinist, replaced entire systems, and I have used odd lubrication techniques. Some years ago, our New Jersey Editor, Pete Barrett, suggested I soak fiber washers in STP overnight if I was having a problem with a stuttering drag. It worked out well for me.

Finally, do not leave your drag pressure on when you are not fishing. Take a second and back off on the control knob. Not only will you flatten washers, but you stand a good chance of warping the spool of a reel this way. Dr. W.A. Muller.

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CONGRESS PASSES STRIPER PROTECTION BILL

by Dick Russell

It was, in the world of politics, as dramatic a cliff-hanger as many a surf fisherman has known in pursuit of the elusive striped bass. With the clock ticking away on the final day in session, the sponsors of precedent-breaking Federal striper legislation successfully beat back a last ditch effort to stop them. And the U.S. Congress passed into law an Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act on October 11th. This marks the first time in history that the Congress has deemed it necessary to step into a fisheries management crisis in traditional state waters.

We'll get to the story of the high drama that raged around the bass bill in Washington in a moment. But here are the key provisions of the bill, as approved in final form by the Senate and House of Representatives.

• By June of 1985, every state must have in place at least the 55 percent reduction in striper fishing effort recommended late last year by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). Any state that hasn't acted will have a total moratorium imposed in its waters. But the ASMFC's coastal fisheries directors are about to review their plan to determine if the 55 percent measure is really strong enough to begin turning around the stripers' grave decline. If the ASMFC decides to follow Maryland's recent declaration of an emergency moratorium, and calls for a coastwide ban on striper possession when their Striped Bass Board convenes in December, then the Congressional bill would force all the states to do **that** by next June. In other words, for now the Federal legisation leaves the decision making up to the coastal states—but with a Federal hammer hanging over their heads.

• The Secretaries of Commerce and Interior, through their fisheries agencies, shall review the ASMFC's management strategy on striped bass within six months from now. They will then report back to the ASMFC and to the Congress on whether the plan is adequate or not.

• The Federal Emergency Striped Bass Study, begun in 1979, shall be funded for two more years, focusing on the causes of chemical contamination in the Chesapeake Bay.

• The States of Maryland and Virginia shall receive Federal grants of $200,000 for hatchery production of stripers in 1986 and 1987, providing these states are in full compliance with the ASMFC plan and spend an equal amount of state funds for hatcheries.

The bill now goes to President Reagan, who is expected to sign it. Despite his poor record on the environment, Reagan has already committed $10 million in Federal funds to help clean up the Chesapeake Bay, the primary striper spawning grounds. And fisheries officials in his Administration have publicly come out in support of the limited Federal striper intervention which prevailed in the Congress.

Any state not meeting the 55 percent reduction in fishing effort faces a Federal moratorium.

Now let's retrace what transpired during Congress' tumultuous final days of 1984. The strongest of the four striper protection bills introduced this year, a three-year Federal moratorium call by Rep. Claudine Schneider of Rhode Island, had failed to overcome opposition from "states rights" advocates in the House. But a less extreme bill from Massachusetts Rep. Gerry Studds had made it through the key House committee in September.

On the Senate side, both Rhode Island's John Chafee and Massachusetts' Edward Kennedy had bills pending similar to the Studds' approach. However, after a Senate hearing in mid-September, Chafee was very upset with the states' foot-dragging on protecting the bass. By now, Maryland had announced an indefinite moratorium effective January 1st and its Governor was calling upon all the other states to do the same. And Chafee decided that a Federal take-over was probably the only way to make this happen. He told his staff he wanted a one-year Federal moratorium, to be reviewed by the government fisheries agencies for possible continuation. But when "states rights" opposition in the Senate looked like at least as tough a hurdle as it was in the House, Chafee decided to modify his stand. After all, time was running out. If **something**, even if not the strongest, could pass the Congress now, stronger action could be taken next year if necessary.

So a conference was held between Senate and House staff members concerned about the striper crisis. It was agreed that the Studds bill should be strengthened somewhat, specifically by the provision that requires a review of the states' plan by the Federal fisheries agencies. Then, if the Studds bill passed the House, it would be sent to the Senate for approval in the same form.

So, on October 3rd, the House took up the Studds measure. Congresswoman Schneider offered her support, but warned: "While I am pleased that the bass problem is being addressed today, I do not believe this measure goes far enough to prevent the decline... I hold out the greatest hope that through the Studds bill, we will see both the Atlantic Commission and the states take the necessary expedient action to save the fishery from destruction and from the endangered species list. Otherwise, I have no doubt we'll be back here in January on this same issue."

Floor debate began when Virginia Rep. Herbert Bateman tried for an amendment to weaken the bill. Bateman wanted a state to merely have to show "substantial progress" toward meeting the ASMFC's recommendations. When it came time to vote on Bateman's amendment, another foe of the bill—Maryland Rep. Roy Dyson, whose constituents are the commercial watermen of the Eastern Shore—asked for a quorum call. This meant that, if three-fifths of the House members were not present, no action could be taken on the bill. In no uncertain terms, Studds castigated both Bateman and Dyson for their tactics. But when the roll call vote was taken, nearly every Congressman was present. Bateman's amendment was defeated, 303 to 98.

House Speaker Tip O'Neill then asked for a voice vote on the Studds bill. And it passed overwhelmingly. Now it was the turn of the Senate, where everyone was mired in debate over the Federal budget. Here, once again, a Virginia member tried to water down the bill's language.

Senator Paul Trible told Chafee he wanted an amendment that the states only had to indicate "good faith." When Chafee told him to forget it, the rumor circulated that Trible would try to prevent the bill's reaching the Senate floor. Numerous phone calls poured into Trible's office. Chafee and Kennedy met with him again, Trible agreed to withdraw his opposition, and the way seemed paved for Senate action.

But when the bill came up for a vote, unexpected trouble surfaced. West Virginia Senator Robert Byrd objected to a section specifying that the Federal striper study continue to look deeper into acid rain as a cause of the fish's decline. Byrd's primary constituents are the big West Virginia coal companies. Apparently Byrd, who refuses to admit that acid rain is a national problem, was worried that further study of the Chesapeake's acid rain woes might ultimately prompt the Reagan Administration to **do** something about it—and put a dent in the coal companies' pocketbooks.

The striper bill was now in real jeopardy. Under Congressional rules for last-minute action on bills, "unanimous consent" was needed to bring the bass matter to a vote. There simply wasn't time for debate. When Byrd said no, any action was postponed to the final day. More phone calls seeking to sway Byrd poured into his Senate office. Chafee tried to reason with him. Even House Speaker O'Neill sought to use his clout to turn the Senator around. But Byrd was adamantly opposed.

So, at high noon on October 11th, concerned Senators agreed to eliminate the brief sentence about acid rain from the bill. That didn't matter much anyway, since the Federal striper study would still be looking into **all** contamination causes in the Bay, including acid rain. Byrd withdrew his objection, the bill was brought to a voice vote, and passed.

But since the Senate had changed the bill's language, it now had to go **back** to the full House for yet another vote. The same rule applied in the House: it **one** member objected to any part of the bill, it would die, because there were only three hours left before adjournment.

Senator Chafee's staff rushed the bill to the House floor. With Speaker O'Neill behind it, it stood a good chance. Studds tried to keep the vote as quiet as possible. Certain Congressmen, who had fought the bill before, might take one last stab at defeating it. But maybe, just maybe, they wouldn't even realize it was coming to another vote.

One hour to go. The Speaker called for a voice vote on the slightly revised bill. No objections were raised. And it passed into history.

A week before the bill's passage, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission had held its annual meeting in Savannah, Georgia. There, Maryland officials unveiled a new chart showing the probable results of a coastwide moratorium. Produced by Federal fisheries scientist Dr. John Boreman, this is an egg deposition index of the Chesapeake striper spawning stock from 1965 projected ahead to 1993. The Boreman graph shows a rising trend in the number of eggs which peaked in 1975 and has been going steadily downhill ever since, reaching an all-time low this year.

With the states' current 55 percent reduction plans in place, the index begins to rise again, but relatively slowly. By 1993, it would not quite reach the '75 peak. With a Maryland moratorium added on, the trend is slightly better. But with a coastal moratorium, by 1988 striper egg deposition in the Chesapeake would be expected to match the '75 peak and continue to spiral upwards—resulting in more potential newborn striped bass **than ever** within five years.

As Maryland Tidewater chief Lee Zeni explained: "There is the very clear implication that, in the next four or five years, we stand a chance of turning the striper decline around rapidly with a coastwide moratorium."

A coastal moratorium would "result in more potential newborn stripers than ever within five years."

Dr. Philip Goodyear, Boreman's colleague in the Emergency Striped Bass Study, basically echoed Maryland's comments. "I've said all along that a moratorium would provide the maximum growth potential for the stocks," said Goodyear. "These guys have got to figure out whether they can live with that or not."

Responding to a motion by Maryland, the state directors did vote to reconsider whether the 55 percent cutback plan is enough. The striped bass Scientific & Statistics Committee will convene sometime in November to assess the new data. But in Savannah, there was certainly no immediate bandwagon to follow Maryland's moratorium initiative. ASMFC Chairman Ralph Abele did say that, if most coastal states are still fishing primarily on Chesapeake stripers, more than a 55 percent reduction is probably needed. "What qualifies as reaching the 55 percent figure is fairly nebulous anyway," Abele said.

Indeed, as Congresswoman Schneider pointed out in her statement to the House before the striper bill vote, an analysis by Federal fisheries agencies shows that the sum total of the states' efforts so far amounts to only a 25 to 35 percent cut in fishing effort. "The Atlantic States Fisheries Commission is in continual state of inertia," she said. "After one or several states take action on the plight of the bass, by the time the Commission reviews the action, the situation affecting the fish has changed dramatically. What we have here is a vicious circle of review and inaction. The handwriting is on the wall for the ASMFC."

The Rhode Island Representative is not alone in her views. Dick Schaefer, Regional Director of the Naitonal Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), warned the state officials that his agency was strongly considering deeper involvement. A new petition asking that the striper be declared a "threatened species" along the Atlantic Coast is being reviewed by NMFS. "There certainly is Federal attention to a moratorium of some sort if the stocks continue to decline," said Schaefer. "Pressure is increasing on us. It's a lousy way to manage a resource, but it may get to a point where the stocks are so low that there's not enough left to manage."

Since 1973, an average of seven percent of the annual striper landings have occurred outside state inshore waters, in what is known as the Federal Fishery Conservation Zone. To address this region, government fisheries councils have just produced their own management plan. Recommendations include a 24 inch minimum size limit, a 40 inch maximum size limit with a one-fish-per-day exception, and a total ban on any striper possession from October 1st through May 31st. No foreign fishing vessel can retain any stripers. (While the bass has always been strictly an American fish, this summer U.S.-spawned stripers were introduced for the first time in the Mediterranean Sea.)

To their credit, the state directors did make one strong move in Savannah. Some states, notably Rhode Island, had been pushing to allow "flexibility" in the striper plan's minimum size limits. After lifting its seven-month-old moratorium this summer, Rhode Island went back to an 18 inch minimum size to allow its net fishmen to keep taking pre-spawning-age stripers. Every other coastal harvesting state now has a 24 inch minimum, as the original management plan called for in 1981. Rhode Island official John Stolgitis' response in Georgia was: "We don't need a moratorium, we've got plenty of fish. And I'll fight till I die against our having a 24 inch limit."

But when the ASMFC voted on the "flexibility" idea, the death knell sounded for any state which still holds out against the size limits. A minimum size less than 24 inches fork length along the coast will **not** be

(Continued on next page.)

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sanctioned. What this means is that the Federal bill **forces** Rhode Island to go to 24 inches, plus the 55 percent reduction, or else face a mandatory moratorium. It's ironic that, had Rhode Island stuck with its moratorium, the state would now be leading the striper conservation effort instead of bringing up the rear.

Results of the 1984 young-of-the-year surveys were also announced at the meeting. In Maryland, the "official" survey shows a 4.2 figure—up from last year, but still far below the 30-year average of 9.3 fingerling stripers per seine haul. If you take away a seining site where a substantial number of little bass turned out to be hatchery-released fish, the 1984 Chesapeake figure falls to 3.2. This is the fourth critical level in five years for newborn striper survival there.

In the Hudson River area, where commercial striper fishing has been banned since 1976 because of high levels of PCBs, a strong young-of-the-year count is indicated again. North Carolina, though, discovered **no** juveniles in its traditional sampling areas.

Dr. Goodyear discussed the results of Chesapeake contamination studies conducted last spring. In monitoring survival of striper larvae at three locations in the Nanticoke River, a significant die-off appeared to be the result of high concentrations of aluminum made more toxic by a low pH level from acid rain. In laboratory tests, when newborn stripers were exposed to high concentrations of Nanticoke River water, there was total mortality from the same cause.

"The results," said Goodyear, "indicate that a 6.5 or lower pH in soft water increases striped bass mortality, even in the absence of aluminum. When you add 100 parts per billion of dissolved aluminum, the fish die even at a pH level of 7.3. So an increase in the frequency of low pH due to acid rain could be a key reason for the decline, especially in Maryland's Eastern Shore rivers. However, where the decline has been most severe in the Upper Bay region, a low pH trend cannot be explained as the cause."

In the Upper Bay and Potomac River areas, there has long been a tremendous amount of agricultural runoff. To help curb this problem, Maryland has developed a $15 million pesticide management plan, a cost-sharing effort to encourage farmers to reduce runoff of harmful chemicals in critical spawning areas.

With the success of the Federal bill, all eyes will now turn to the ASMFC's response this winter on going beyond the 55 percent plan. Ironically, the news that most of the country received out of Savannah was that the state directors had agreed to endorse a coastwide moratorium. The Associated Press reporter mistakenly believed this had been the consensus. It isn't, not yet anyway, but time (and pressure) will tell.

WHOPPER CATCHES

BY FRED GUARDINEER

AN 84 LB. WAHOO IS A NEW RECORD FOR NEW YORK STATE AND WAS CAUGHT BY KEN LEFFLER OF TEA-NECK, N.J.....

...FISHING ABOARD CAPT. TONY FROITZ-HEIM'S FREEPORT CHARTER BOAT "MISTY" NEAR THE VIRGINIA WRECK. THE PREVIOUS RECORD WAS 53 LBS. BY ROCCO VARINE IN 1981.

A 61 LB. 4 OZ. STRIPED BASS WAS CAUGHT BY RUSSEL CURRIER SURFCASTING AN EEL AT PLUM ISLAND, MASSACHUSETTS. NOT A RECORD, BUT CERTAINLY A BRAGGIN' SIZE ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME BIG BASS TROPHY!

A 10 LB. FLUKE CAUGHT ON A LIVE SNAPPER BY TIM DOOLAN OFF SANDY HOOK, NEW JERSEY, WAS A WINNER IN THE I.G.F.A. ANNUAL CONTEST.

A 6 LB. PICKEREL ON 8 LB. LINE WAS A RECORD IN THE "*FIELD & STREAM*" CONTEST AND WAS CAUGHT BY HARRY ROTHMAN OF BROOKLYN, FISHING IN FALLSVIEW LAKE, ELLENVILLE, N.Y. THE DATE WAS JULY 5, 1970, WRITES HARRY. ALL THIS TIME...

...IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN AN I.G.F.A. WORLD RECORD UNTIL DEC. 4 1983 WHEN WALDO TOMPKINS LANDED A FLORIDA PICKEREL OF 6 LB. 4 OZ. ON 8 LB. LINE, THE NEW RECORD.

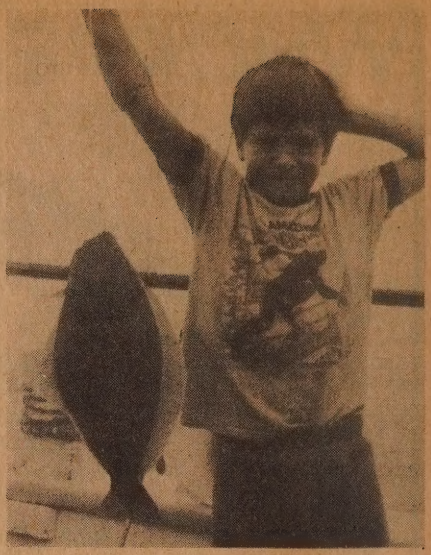
A 10 LB. 1 OZ. LARGEMOUTH BASS WAS CAUGHT IN THE QUADDICK RESERVOIR, CONNECTICUT BY RANDOLPH KEMPAIN CASTING A JIG 'N EEL LURE. THE BIG BASS WAS A LOCAL PRIZE WINNER.

A 3 ½ LB. YELLOW PERCH WAS A WHOPPER CATCH FOR STEVEN J. PARIS WHO WAS FISHING IN A NEW JERSEY DRAINAGE POND WHERE HE WAS CASTING A MEPPS BLACK FURY LURE ON 8 LB. LINE. A SUPERB PANFISH FOR THE DINNER TABLE.

SEND-A-KID FISHING 1984:

ANOTHER BIG SUCCESS

by Fred Golofaro



Thanks to the efforts of many of our friends and the generosity extended by readers, advertisers and private organizations, the success of The Fisherman's 1984 Send-A-Kid Fishing Program exceeded even our greatest expectations. Nearly six thousand dollars ($5,918.00) was contributed towards the program this year and as a result, 575 youngsters benefitted from trips aboard open and charter boats out of Captree. For most, it was their first taste of saltwater fishing and for many, their first trip aboard a boat. The balance of this year's donations will go towards getting the 1985 edition of Send-A-Kid Fishing off to an early start.

All of those who contributed their time or money to the program can share in the satisfaction written on the faces of youngsters enjoying a day on the water or thrilling to the catch of their first fish. Thanks to all of you and particularly the boat owners, captains and crews of the Captree Boatmen's Association for their cooperation and reduced fares. A special thanks to Bill Tymann (Director, Big Brothers/Sisters of Nassau County) and his staff for taking some of the load off of me. They were invaluable in helping to coordinate the transporting and chaperoning of youngsters from various youth agencies in the Metropolitan New York-Long Island area.

We're optimistic that the 1985 program will expand even further. But, this is still 1984 and time for one final salute to those readers who contributed to this year's Send-A-Kid Fishing Program. Thanks again to those whose names are listed on the following pages!

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MONTAUK'S GRAND FINALE

by Capt. Bill Ricca

The crowds are gone and the fishing is some of the best of the year for those willing to brave November's chill.

With the approach of late fall, many of us think of pulling our boats, winterizing them and putting them away for the season. Saturday afternoons, high school or college football, or Sunday with the pros might seem a better bet than the deck of a sport fishing boat a few miles offshore on a cloudy October or November day.

However, there are a few of us who refuse to give up the ghost especially when there is still some quality fishing ahead for us. At this time of year, there seem to be plenty of fish to catch, but very few fishermen willing to brave the cold to cash in on some really fine action. At Montauk, weather permitting, some of the finest fishing of the year can be had. The crowds are down, the few boats out are usually only serious fishermen who know what they are doing and know enough to respect each other and give one another plenty of room.

For certain species, some of the largest fish will be taken during this time. In most cases, the best fishing will be much closer to the inlet than during the summer.

Large bluefish, the largest of the

A 21 pound blue taken in November of '83 aboard the author's Alyssa Ann.

season, will be caught in late October and early November. These animals will be jigged or trolled right under the light and in tight all along the South Side. Large blues are still available at Cartwright, but due to the usual influx of dogfish at this time of year, you should be prepared to switch from bait to jigs. Inshore, you could use jigs from 3 to 6 ounces, but at Cartwright 6 or 8 ounces are the norm.

Fishing inshore and on the south side has its advantages. The possibility exists of hooking up with striped bass, weakfish and bonito for jiggers and the trollers. The fish are easy to find, simply follow the birds. As the fish, regardless of the species, push the baitfish, the birds will remain right over them to feast on the leftovers. If you suspect that there may be bass or weaks under the blues and bonito and you are jigging, remember to work your jigs very slowly right off the bottom. If the blues and bonito are your quarry, then you can retrieve them more quickly.

Along with the aforementioned gamesters, certain bottom species abound at Montauk at this time of year. Cod, blackfish and flounder are hot items for those willing to put in the time for them.

Flounder can be taken in close to the beach from the Lighthouse all the way back to the Inlet. They will also be caught in Lake Montauk. The preferred bait is skimmer clams and chum is a must.

Blackfish will be taken on almost any rock pile or underwater obstruction. The preferred bait is green crabs which, in most cases, you must bring with you. The best locations for blackfish would be Gull Island, Plum Island and Fishers Island to the north; Cerebrus Shoal and Shagwong Reef close by, and Southwest Ledge to the east.

Cod will be found on just about any of their spring haunts, but fishing will be best for them later in the season. Early December is prime time.

About the most predictable location for early fall cod will be Southwest Ledge. Here they will be mixed with large blackfish. At times, cod will be taken in great numbers at Block Island, but this is usually very late in the season.

With the exception of Block Island, all of the fall codfishing will be done using bait. At Southwest Ledge, green crabs work well as do skimmer clams.

The late season, Block Island cod action is usually on jigs which can translate into some really fine sport.

As I mentioned earlier, the fish are there if you care to brave the elements. This is usually tough, rugged fishing with few mild and windless days. Be prepared to cancel your plans if the weather does not cooperate. On the plus side, however, it can generate many exciting memories to last you over the winter months.

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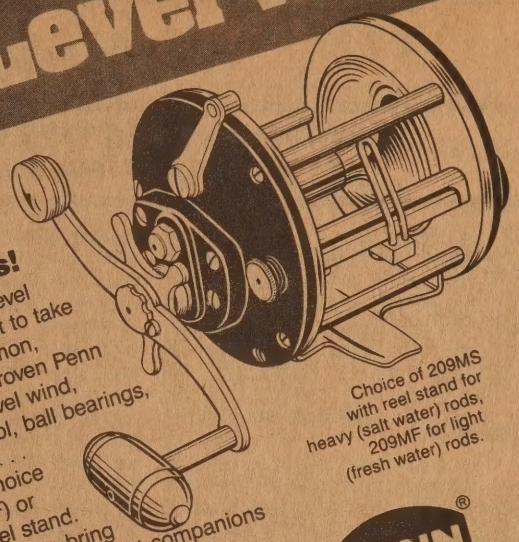

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A TALE OF YORE

by Matt Ahern

It was way back in 1925 when the author first discovered "Mr. Blackfish." The love affair continues to this day.

Of all the bottom fish we fellows find most difficult to hook the blackfish must surely stand at the head of the class. This wily, pugnacious cuss has caused the average sinker bouncer more frustration than all the rest of our bottom feeders combined. At least this is the way I found it to be (even today I sometimes have difficulty).

At the beginning of my fishing career, I guess one might say that for a budding saltwater fisherman I was a pretty ignorant kid: I was 11-years-old before I saw my first blackfish. When you take into consideration that the Brooklyn neighborhood in which I was raised abounded with first-rate fishermen, this failure on my part really made me slow on the draw.

And because there were so many fishermen in Brooklyn, tackle shops were never too far away. I don't know if you've ever heard of John Gliebe's tackle shop, then located on Myrtle Avenue near Broadway, Brooklyn; but at the time Gliebe's was the place to go if you wanted custom-made rods, the finest reels and service, sturdy terminal tackle, and the sassiest blood and sandworms.

In later years I bought many a rod and reel from John Gliebe (some of which I have to this day), in addition to long-forgotten flats of sandworms for weakfishing, plus anything else I needed at the time, and I got to know Mr. Gliebe and his son John pretty well. But at the tender age of eleven, I hadn't yet been inside the shop as there were always groups of master fishermen inside and I figured they wouldn't enjoy having a kid underfoot and taking time out from their discussions to answer all those questions I had an uncontrollable desire to ask. Therefore, I was content to stand outside and feast my eyes on the splendid array of tackle I was eating my heart out to possess.

I'm sure Gliebe's shop was a good four mile hike from my neighborhood, but that didn't faze me one bit. I willingly hoofed it, rain or shine, for to be so close to all that good tackle and those excellent fishermen was reward in itself. But one balmy May evening I started out on my journey and I never did get there.

While walking along Myrtle Avenue and approaching the neighborhood speakeasy, I came upon an excited crowd milling about outside the establishment. I was sure it was just another police raid and attempted to walk around the confusion and continue on. Not even the excitement of a police raid was going to keep me from my planned visit to Gliebe's shop window.

But it wasn't a police raid. Instead, there were four or five strapping big fishermen bending over several bushel baskets of blackfish. There must have been a hundred fish in those baskets and they were being given away to whoever wanted them. There was no want of takers. I came away with one that must have weighed five pounds. Needless to say, there was no visit to Gliebe's that evening.

I wrapped the fish in several sheets of newspaper I'd salvaged from a trash receptacle and scooted for home. I was in my glory. Here was a fish I'd never seen before and I could study it to my heart's content, knowing full well that the next day I could check with the neighborhood fishermen for further information.

And you can bet I checked. I must have driven some of those poor guys to distraction with my many questions. But to the ever-lasting memory of those fine fishermen, not one refused to part with all the hard-gained blackfishing knowledge he possessed. And from one of these fellows I received the best piece of fishing advice I have ever gotten. "Kid," he said, "if you want to become a good fisherman, first learn to catch blackfish. If you learn to do that, all others will be duck soup."

Ah, the truth of that!

But of what good was the untested knowledge I possessed if I had no opportunity to use it? Going out on a Canarsie party boat was, of course, out of my means, for when you were 11-years-old in 1925, you were indeed rich if you had two nickels to rub together. So that summer I put a dent in the snapper population and let it go at that.

They say the good Lord takes care of fools and drunkards. Well, let me add a postscript to that: He also takes care of kids who want to go blackfishing so bad they can taste it. That summer a new kid moved into the neighborhood; around the corner, but it was close enough. Martin Dyckman was his name and he and his father, who was a motorman for the long

gone Brooklyn Rapid Transit trolley lines, were dyed-in-the-wool fishermen.

Martin and I hit it right off and soon we were into high-grade fish talk. I could offer little with my meager fishing experience, but Martin mesmerized me with tales of his fishing exploits. I guess you might say that in my eyes, Martin was a god and there was nothing I wouldn't do to get him talking. Actually, when I think back upon some of those things I did to get him to talking, I now realize they were nothing short of shameful.

When I mentioned the desire I had to go blackfishing and the tough luck I was experiencing in bringing that desire to fulfillment, Martin said to fret no more. He and his father were blackfishing fans from 'way back and come October they would take me to Barren Island in Jamaica Bay to do a little fishing in a good spot they knew.

Well, I guess you know how it is with kids: always impatient when good times are in the offing. I had first met Martin in August and the two months or so I would have to wait for that promised trip was like waiting for a lifetime to go by. Time to me would not pass quickly enough. Therefore, when Mr. Dyckman returned home from work each day, I made sure to post myself in a conspicuous place. He would have had to be blind not to see me, but I was taking no chances that he might forget who I was. Had he overlooked me, I think I would have died on the spot.

But even misery must eventually come to an end and one Saturday afternoon Martin gave me the word. "We're going tomorrow. Pop says to be ready at four. We'll leave in the dark and he says not to bring your dropline; he has a rod and reel for you to use. He already bought the bait. Live green crabs."

Oh, joyous day!

I don't think I slept a wink that night. If I thought two months was a long time to wait, those hours until early morning seemed more of a strain than ever. To this day, I've never completely gotten away from that. No matter how often I fish, I am always somewhat on edge the night before any planned trip. But I didn't know at the time that this would become a lifelong quirk.

You can bet that I was standing at the curb with time to spare and doing plenty of anxious fretting before Martin and his father rounded the corner in their 1922 Dodge Brothers Sedan. Even for a kid to ride in a car in those days was a big thing and I considered myself the luckiest of the lucky.

How long it took us to get to Barren Island, I don't know; but I recall it was getting daylight when we parked the car. There was some hiking to be done and when we reached our destination, we were on the bank of a creek that coursed and meandered behind Barren Island. It was cold and there was frost on the marsh grass, but this meant nothing to me if the fish would bite.

Martin could handle a rod and reel like an expert, but I had no knowledge on casting, baiting up, and all those other things experienced fishermen no longer think about, those important and necessary things which have become second nature. But Mr. Dyckman was one fine gentleman and he took care of all the details cheerfully taking time out from his own fishing to explain the importance of why this was done and why that was done, and the reasons for this and the reasons for that. As for the actual casting, I just could not manage it, but that didn't bother Mr. Dyckman—he did it for me, explaining what I must do if I felt a bite.

Because I did no casting, I am at a loss as to how deep the creek was; but it seems to me a guess of 15 or 20 feet would be close. This is based solely on later experiences which indicate that this depth (and more) is best for inshore blackfishing. After I had been hung-up a few times and lost several riggings, Mr. Dyckman told me the bottom we were fishing was littered with concrete railroad ties which had spilled overboard several years before during a violent windstorm. I was thankful I wasn't expected to replace the lost terminal gear. Yes, sir, Mr. Dyckman and his memory will always be number one in my book.

I don't know how you made out on your first blackfishing trip, but I didn't do too well. I quickly discovered that secondhand knowledge, good though it might be, for I could anticipate some of the action, was still a far cry from having personal experience. Oh, I got bites all right, but these Mr. Dyckman explained were mostly from bergalls and as every beginning blackfisherman has also discovered, I couldn't distinguish one from the other.

But as the day progressed, I improved, and when quitting time came (much too quickly and much to my sorrow), I had four blackfish from a half-pounder to a husky two pounder—weights which were about average for the creek. Martin and his father had an easy two dozen between them, so you can see the fish were there. It just took experience to catch them.

That catch of four blackfish may have been meager when compared to some I was slated to make in the future. Sometimes I think that even the 14 pounder I caught some years later off Seabright, New Jersey failed to give me as big a thrill. Those four blackfish were proof that with a little perseverance and stick-to-itiveness, I could indeed catch that wiliest and most cunning of bottom feeders.

I've always considered those four blackfish as my stepping stones along the path to broader fishing knowledge. I'll tell you truthfully, whatever fishing "luck" I've had in all the years since, I place squarely on the shoulders of those long-gone blackfish.

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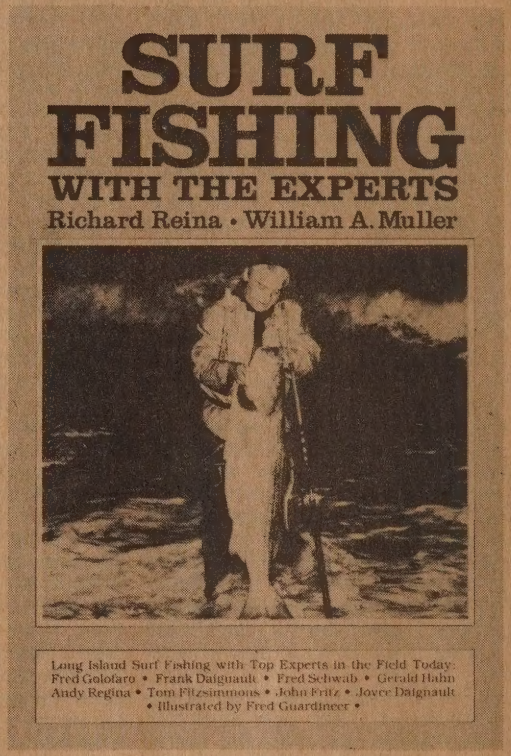
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PONQUOGUE BEACH

by Gerald Hahn

Bordering Shinnecock Inlet, this strand of south shore beach is a steady producer during the fall months.

When the first northeasters turn maple leaves red and pumpkins bright orange, many fishermen stow away their gear for the season. A silly thing to do when some of the best surf action of the year is just getting under way. Under tumultuous skies, surf fishermen catch more blues in a single tide than they caught all season.

Last October, for example, the first storms blew in before Columbus Day, and northerly gusts up to 20 mph continued in spurts to Thanksgiving. Fishermen who plied the beaches around Montauk and the south shore at this time were rewarded with excellent bluefishing, the kind that makes one forget about those stagnant summer days. Moreover, a beach vehicle and hiking boots weren't necessary, for many fishermen found blues only a few feet from the parking lots.

A northeaster is particularly beneficial to surf fishermen because it pushes the bait inshore and, of course, the bluefish on their tails. Indeed, the bluefish are so eager to

(Continued on next page.)

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stuff themselves at this time, they often drive the baitfish right onto the beach, and the herring gulls and terns have a feast. There are many excellent fishing spots along the south shore, but a particularly rewarding one extends westward from Shinnecock Inlet to Ponquogue Beach. Free parking is available at both places in the fall, only a short distance from highly productive water. This pocket is usually loaded with bait because the currents are trapped in a kind of cove that is formed by Shinnecock's west jetty at one end and a sand bar off the point at Ponquogue at the other end. Reinforcing the cove is an outer shoal that runs from Shinnecock to about a half-mile from shore at Ponquogue. Even in calm weather the water always boils at Ponquogue's bar, but during a chilly northeaster it becomes a hotbed of activity as bait and blues are swept even closer to shore. Here, as elsewhere, most of the blues are school fish. At various times, different sized fish scoot by: 3 pounders, 6 pounders, and a few specimens in the 10 pound class, and then the teen-sized monsters.

People who fish the surf regularly invest in waders or hip boots and foul weather gear, to keep warm and dry while gaining an edge in casting distance. Extending their leverage, they also use a long surf rod measuring 10 to 12 feet and a spinning reel comparable to the Penn 750 spooled with 15 to 20 lb. test. They may also bring along a lighter outfit, say a 9 foot rod or even an 8 foot jetty stick, for those windy days when blues move close to shore.

At no other time are artificials so effective on blues as in the fall. Blues are in a hurry to depart for warmer climates, and they feed voraciously on herring, anchovies, sand eels, silversides and other silvery baitfish. Thus, the most consistent bluefish catchers are metal lures, commonly called tins. Although Hopkins and Kastmasters lures are the most widely used, tins made by Diamond Feather and Krocodile and various diamond jigs weighing about two to three ounces are just as effective. Some days a lure dressed with white bucktail or feathers or a surgical tube works best; other days the blues seem to want their lures straight, no chaser. Metal cuts easily through the strongest wind and requires little assistance from the angler to enliven its appeal. The currents and breakers take care of that. Equally effective at this time of year are popping plugs in various colors. Actually, color seems less important than the irresistible gurgling splash of this lure as it is jerked along the surface with sweeps of the rod. I have been blues simultaneously smash a Stan Gibbs in red and yellow and an Atom in blue and white. Surfcasters may argue about the color of a popper, but they all agree on one thing: nothing beats seeing a blue smash one on the surface.

Many people at Ponquogue fish for blues with wire. A coated wire leader measuring 12 to 30 inches facilitates changing lures and puts a dent in the blue's dentures. Some people dislike wire, however, and say that it inhibits the lure's movement. Instead, they tie their lures directly to the running line with an improved clinch knot or to a shocker. The simplest leader is made of monofilament, but it resembles the wire leader described above in its assembly. For example, when using a 15 lb. test running line, a 2½ ft. length of 20 lb. test is connected below, by means of a dark barrel swivel and two improved clinch knots. A duo-lock snap is then tied to the end of the shocker with another clinch knot. This way the lighter line increases casting distance while the heavier line cushions the blow of a big fish.

Ponquogue is not difficult to fish because there are so many troughs in front of the bar and on windy days the blues often smash the lure just as you're ready to bring it out of the water. One day here I caught all my blues only 30 feet from shore, and so did everyone else. The blues aren't always so obliging, however, and many times you really have to fling a plug to reach them; nor is the bar, which extends for several city blocks, equally consistent. One dawn I took a position at the west end only to discover that the east end had been more productive. During the evening shift I switched to the east end while blues were taken in the west. Go figure them out.

When, for one reason or another the fishing sours at Ponquogue, many of the regulars head a half-mile west to the inlet and fish either off the west jetty or the beach west of the jetty. A post in the water marks a deep hole nearby, and both jetty jockey and beach angler can reach it. The hole is worth checking out around high tide.

Of course there are days, even in the fall, when few fish are taken at either of these places, sort of a lull between schools of bluefish moving out, or when for no apparent reason they suddenly show up in water you would never dream fishable. By example, one slow morning at Ponquogue I was chatting with an old-timer in the parking lot when a young surfcaster came by in his van. "They're killing blues just down the beach! Take the first exit on your left, a dirt road." No sooner said than done. We rushed over to the nameless spot and found two fishermen loaded down with more blues than 20 people had caught all morning at Ponquogue.

It also pays to hang around at night, even though most people depart as soon as the sun takes a dip below the horizon, and a few degrees with it. Night fishermen are a dedicated breed, willing to suffer through a frosty night for a potential teen-sized chopper, a 10 lb. weak or a prize bass. Some night anglers continue casting such lures as darting and swimming plugs behind a white or pink teaser, or a metal spoon painted white on one side, or a white leadhead bucktail. If

none of these work, however, they switch to bait.

Large predators feed on an endless variety of bait, but in the fall most fishermen rely on live eels and bunker. Equally effective, however, are strips of mackerel, whole squid, butterfish, and young blackfish and flounder. For large bass, people use a 4/0 beak hook snelled on an 18 inch leader of 40 or 50 lb. test. A barrel swivel secures the snell to the running line. For blues, a 6/0 beak on a 5 inch single strand wire leader is employed. The wire comes with a barrel swivel at the other end, and all components are colored brown for low visibility. Many of the baits mentioned are heavy enough to cast a fair distance and consequently, the rig does not require a sinker. When a sinker is used, however, it is generally a five ounce pyramid secured to the upper eye of the swivel with a short length of monofilament. An end loop holds the sinker, and an improved clinch knot secures the mono to the swivel.

Eels are rigged through the jaw, and whole baitfish are rigged in the usual manner, that is, through the mouth and out the gill cover and then just ahead of the tail. A whole squid, impaled through the head, makes an excellent fluttering bait as well. Finally, strip bait, whether a 1X3 cut from the back of a bunker or a mackerel, is rigged through the skin at one end and then in the center, so that the other end dangles in the current.

Night fishermen often find that the best time to drift a bait is on the outgoing tide. After casting, the fisherman leaves the bail open, and the bait is pulled out to deeper water. Bottom rigged baits are cast as far as possible; then the reel is engaged and the drag set light. Since night fishing is not speed fishing, most anglers set their rods in a sand spike that is bolted to a strip of wood to lengthen it. This way, the line is kept above the breakers and the bait remains in deep water.

Fumbling with knots on a dark cold night is futile, so bring along a flashlight. And a gaff, too, if you're looking for an outsized fish. In the fall, it pays to combine some night fishing with fishing at dawn or dusk.

Indeed, one never can tell what may come along in the fall. After a good workout one day at Ponquogue, I decided to take a look at the Smith Point Pavilion on the way home. This area, about 7 miles west of Moriches Inlet, is another excellent place in the fall, even though it boasts no sand bars in the immediate vicinity. I reached the beach just as nighttime was approaching, and in the distance a surfcaster was displaying what seemed like an extraordinary blue. When I reached him, I realized it was a 20 lb. bass. He had taken it on a Kastmaster, and his 25 lb. test was snarled beyond hope. He wasn't complaining, though.

And neither will you, if you continue surf fishing in the fall.

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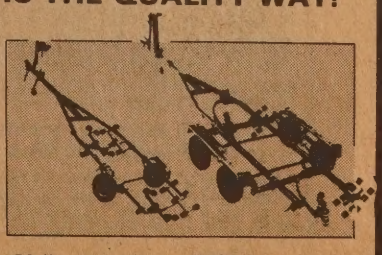

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DIAMOND JIG TH
STRIPERS AT SANDY

by Rich Giessuebel

The Sandy Hook area should provide the best striper action of the seas

Come September of every year, stripers begin to show up in catches made along Sandy Hook, New Jersey. These are Hudson River fish that have either spent most of their summer along the northern Jersey coast or the southern Long Island coast. For the most part, these fish average around 20 inches in length and feed school style on sand eels, spot, bunker, anelids (worms), and crustaceans (crabs). They prowl in and out the area called "between the channels," the Tin Can Grounds, and the beaches of Sandy Hook. These fish can be caught on an assortment of lures and baits, however, come October and November and you can be sure the best lure will be a diamond jig.

True, umbrella rigs take a high percentage of these fish, but for maximum sport, nothing can compare to a light spinning or levelwind outfit packed with 10 pound test line and a simple diamond jig on the other end. This pits angler against fish. You must tempt the fish to strike the lure while you are controlling the lure in the water. Trolling has the disadvantage of having the transom holding the rods. The angler must first see the hit before reacting to the fish. There are ways you can troll that are very effective with a hand-held rod. For example, if bucktailing, we would leave the rods in the rod holders until some fish showed on the fish finder. Then, we'd pick up the rods and jig them back to front adding much motion to the jigs. This often caused a big bass to strike, but for the most part, trolling doesn't have the same degree of sportsmanship associated with it as the one on one situation where the angler holds the rod and manipulates the lure while trying to outfox the fish.

Since there are many possible ways to catch stripers, let's concern ourselves with the way you would catch them if you were drifting on either your own boat or on a party boat while casting diamond jigs.

The first thing you should concern yourself with is the tackle you will require in order to be successful. Stick with one piece rods around 7 feet long. The Shakespeare 1100 Ugly Stik is just such a rod. Very light, yet capable of handling 20 pound bluefish, this rod will stand up to the biggest bass. Many times double headers can be handled effectively, also. Use any reel that's designated with a 4. That means, either 4, 40, 400, or 4000. For an example, Ryobi makes the MX-40 and Daiwa the 4000C, this 4 generally designates a reel capable of handling from 10 to 20 pound test line. It is also categorized as heavy freshwater, and medium saltwater. So, get one of these reels and pack it full of 10 pound test, if you are going to fish on your own boat and 15 pound test if you are going on a party boat.

The reason for the two different weights is that on your own boat there will not be too many occasions where two fish will be hooked and running towards each other. Also, on your own boat, you can play the fish in

Author with a pair of diamond jig eating linesiders.

OSE HOOK

in the weeks ahead.

the water longer, not fearing to tangle others up. However, on the party boat, you should try to get the fish in the boat as quickly as possible.

Now, another very important point that you must be aware of is to make certain you are using the size diamond that the fish are feeding on. Stripers are usually very particular about the size of the lure matching the size of the bait. You should begin using a size A27. If guys around you are catching the fish and you feel you are doing everything they are doing, but you are not getting any strikes; then, check out the size of the diamond jig they are using. There are days when the guy fishing the 007 catches 18 stripers from 16" on up to 15 pounds, while those around him are using A27s and catching nothing.

An assortment of diamond jigs ranging in size from 007, 17, 27, 47 and 67 should prove all you will need. You can also use Spider, Ultimus, and Bridgeport diamonds or any of a dozen other models. You should stick to the diamonds without teaser tails. This is very important. If your diamond has a rubber tube tail, take it off!

You may not be aware of this, but you can effectively take weakfish, bluefish, cod, pollock and stripers all on the very same diamond jig. However, for each and every species mentioned, you simply use the jig a different way. For stripers, allow the lure to drift down to the bottom, now keeping your reel in free spool, levelwinds are great for doing this, play out the line, so that the diamond is drifting along or very near to the bottom. At this point, you can engage your reel, one good reel for this kind of fishing is the Shimano Bantam 50. Now, just lift up your rod tip slowly as high as you can and drop the tip back down. This will cause the lure to come up off the bottom and sink back down to the bottom. Bass will usually engulf the lure as it drifts back down towards the bottom. Therefore, the angler must be ever alert to the slightest difference in line tensions.If you get used to the lure dropping, then all of a sudden, it doesn't drop as fast, you could have a bass on the other end. Some guys do not detect this pick-up and at the end of the day, their fish boxes are empty.

If you can detect this pick-up, you must reel quickly to where you feel the fish and then swing the rod tip up thereby attempting to hook the fish. True, there are days when the striper grabs the lure and charges away. Then, they pretty much hook themselves.

Another thing that has proven effective on some occasions is to fish a second hook about 18" above the first. This second hook should be a fly. Bob's Bait and Tackle on Route #37 in Toms River as well as many others, carries these fly tied hooks to be used as teasers on this rig which we call a "teaser rig." Fished the same way, the striper now thinks the sand eel is chasing a meal and he quickly consumes one or the other. Often, two bass go for the hooks and a double header is encountered. Since these fish are small, a leader of 20 pound test line will be able to stand up to most of the action.

Another thing to contend with on these trips is the ever present and pesky bluefish. Sometimes, they will bite your lure off as it floats down to the waiting bass. If this begins to happen to you, do what most experienced diamond jig fishermen do, and control the speed at which the lure drops to the bottom. They make the lure go down slowly. The slow speed doesn't attract the bluefish and they allow the lure to reach the bottom where it can be put into play on the bass.

In order to try these techniques, look for the boats that advertise drifting for Stripers. Often, the late afternoon trips that read "Afternoon Jigging" try to get in on the striper action. If you are on your own boat, look for birds working over schools of fish. These schools will either be weaks, blues, or stripers. Try to get good bottom reading. This will usually indicate weaks or bass, and both can be caught effectively by this technique, even though, you should cast out and slowly jig the lure along the bottom, if you were interested in catching more weakfish than bass.

Remember, on any given day, the fish can do whatever they want. However, for the most part, over the years they have reacted very well to the lures, rods, and techniques just mentioned. Hope you get your limit which these days is four fish over 18" and 6 fish over 24". Remember, if you return the fish to fight another day, he might be 50 pounds the next time you meet. Also, one picture will last forever, whereas one fish might make only a single meal.

If the stripers at Sandy Hook follow patterns they've shown in past years, we will see them sometime shortly after the mullet run kicks off in mid-September and they will stay in the bay until late November or even December if the weather is reasonably mild. It is during this brief period that some of the finest striped bass fishing New Jersey has to offer will be enjoyed by anglers who take the time to learn the habits of these highly prized game fish.

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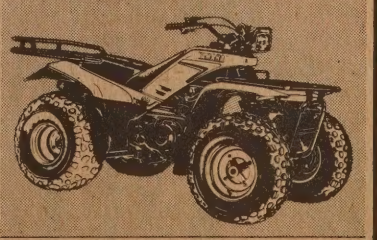

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THE FINAL CURTAIN

by Russ Wilson

The season is winding down, but there is still time to enjoy some 11th hour bottom fishing.

It's a sad, but inescapable fact: the 1984 fishing season is on the wane. We'll still have some fishing through the New Year's festivities, but no longer will we have those tackle testing blues, big striped bass or weakfish. Generally, the only game in town is ling, whiting or cod as the bell tolls the beginning of another year.

There is still time to enjoy the final chapter of this season's action, however. From now through the end of November you can enjoy some excellent bottom fishing and you will not have to travel far off the beach to cash in on the fun.

Blackfish, sea bass and porgies are usually ready and willing to do battle. As a general rule, tog, sea bass and porgies will move into the shallow waters when the ocean cools to sixty or less degrees and for several weeks, the action can border on the unbelievable as these tasty bottom fish go on a feeding binge.

It is a time of plenty for saltwater fishermen, but to enjoy it to the fullest extent you must be prepared with the right tackle, suitable clothing and a selection of baits that are proven fish catchers.

Clothing is extremely important. You might encounter summerlike weather or could hit a day when the winds are whistling from the westerly quarter and air temps are in the mid-forties. Those lightweight trousers and short sleeve shirts are out of place under these conditions. What you need, and should have, are warm woolen outer garments and a set of foul weather gear, rubber boots and a waterproof cap in case the winds bring showers.

If you are lucky and hit an "Indian Summer" type of day you can always shed those extra layers of woolen clothes, but if it's cold and miserable, and you did not bring the heavy clothing, you can count on having a very uncomfortable trip.

You can go to extremes when selecting tackle for bottom fishing. The days when broomstick-thick rods and heavy conventional reels were standard fare are long past. Today's angler knows the value of lightweight tackle and thin monofilament lines. Most experienced bottom fishermen do carry revolving spool reels for the control they afford the user. You can feel every little tug or bump as a fish samples your bait when using the revolving spool type reel, and it will (quite naturally) add to your catch because you'll miss fewer hits.

I prefer a popping style rod, measuring 6½ to 7 feet overall and rated to handle weights of up to four ounces. With the rod I am presently using I can use sinkers of five or six ounces and still hoist a big tog off the bottom without the rod being overpowered. A mid-size reel such as the Shimano 50 SG or Triton Mark I,

A calm day in November and a mixed bag of blacks, sea bass and porgies give these open boat anglers a day to remember.

Shakespeare Sigma 1984, Penn 940, Ambassadeur 6500, or Daiwa Millionaire, Daiwa Sealine 27H or 47H, or the Penn 160 are totally adequate for most inshore bottom fishing.

Most of the time I use 12, 14 or 17 pound test *clear* monofilament line; but if the fish are holding in ultra rough bottom structure or are inhabiting sunken wrecks, I may go a tad heavier and load the reel with 20 or 25 pound test mono.

Blackfish are known brawlers. A four pounder can put a deep bend in stout tackle and a fish of 10 pounds will let you know he's there. Sea bass and porgies are not as tough due to their size, but even these fish are not pushovers when taken from mid-depths.

Terminal rigging is basically the same for all three species. Most tog fishermen prefer the Virginia style hook in sizes 4 through 7, or will opt for the Pacific style bass hook which has a slightly longer shank and a shallower bend. Both work equally well, as do the beak style hooks in sizes 2, 1/0 or 2/0.

Since all three are bottom feeders you can rig your baits accordingly. Sea bass and porgies will eat squid strips, pieces of clam and sea worms. Tog, on the other hand, are fond of hard baits. Fiddler crab, sand fleas (sand bugs to many anglers) or green crab are excellent offerings and will usually bring the tog on the run.

Some experienced fishermen will use a two hook rig when sea bass are the primary target, but will go with a single hook when seeking blackfish. I do prefer the single hook arrangement since it does not hang up on bottom quite as easily as does the double hook rig.

Sand or blood worms, squid strips or pieces of clam can be hooked lightly so they give a natural appearance. You can allow the bait to hang off the end of the hook, but it's much more productive to keep as little bait hanging free as possible if you hope to catch most of the fish that bite. Sea bass are not all that hard to catch, but porgies can be tricky at times and tog are noted for their stealing ability.

I happen to be addicted to blackfish. There are not many fish I'd rather catch, or for that matter, there are none that I would rather have sizzling in the frying pan. Make no mistake: a fresh-caught blackfish is gourmet fare and if you've never tried one you are certainly missing one of the finest seafood treats the ocean has to offer.

The finest bait for tog is a piece of green crab. You can catch plenty of blackfish on fiddler crabs or sand bugs, but it is hard to beat the green crabs on a day to day basis.

Sand bugs can be hooked through the shell, by placing the hook through the collar and burying it in the meaty portion of the bait or by inserting the barb under the tail and bringing it forward to the head of the bait.

Fiddlers are normally hooked by inserting the barb into one of the claw holes and bringing it back through the bottom of the shell.

Green crabs, which are much larger, can be cut into quarters or halves, depending on the size of the crab. I generally use the biggest green crabs I can get and will cut them into quarters and remove the ends of each claw. The hook is then placed into a claw hole and brought back out through another opening. Hooked in this manner, the crab is securely fastened and will still ooze juices which will, in turn, attract blackfish.

Sea bass and porgies will usually hit with a series of sharp taps which are felt through the line. You do not have to rear back on the rod at the first slight tap when fishing for these tasty treats, but when it comes to hooking blackfish you must be alert at all times or you are going to spend a lot of time replacing stolen baits.

There is a definite knack to hooking blackfish. Often, tog will grab a bait with their front teeth, which are designed for biting mussels and other food loose from rocks. The meal is then passed back to a set of crushers and then swallowed. The first tug you feel coming up the line is the result of that first bite which picks up the bait. A second tug will be generated when the bait is passed to the crushers and that when you hoist the rod and begin to crank the reel handle. Any hesitation at this moment will result in a stolen bait and no fish. That's why experienced tog fishermen are always in a state of total concentration. To take a second to talk to a nearby angler, or to look at the scenery can mean not hooking a fish and that's something no experienced togger can tolerate.

The spring run of blackfish generates a tremendous amount of interest along the Atlantic Seaboard, but the fall run, which is as good or better, does not get the attention it deserves from saltwater fishermen. Our log book, kept for more years than we care to recount, shows the largest tog are taken (at least on our boat) during late October and November from inshore wrecks and reefs. "Rough bottom" areas in depths of 40 to 60 feet will produce quality as well as quantity during this same time period.

A lot of fishermen/boaters have their boats out of the water when this bonanza starts to unfold. No problem; there are party and charter boats running until ice forms and for just a few dollars you can cash in on the action without worrying about your boat getting dirty or maybe the motor freezing if a shot of cold air pushes down from the Canadian Provinces.

I normally keep the boat in the water until the first week of December. If the weather is unseasonably mild, it may stay in for an extra week or two and if there is below normal temperatures, I'll put the boat to bed a week or two sooner. At any rate, some of the finest fishing of the year can be had during the final act and just before the curtain drops on another fishing season.

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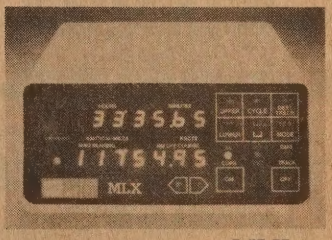

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East End REPORT

with Mrs. Lorry Mangan

Although the weather is summery, fishing action is becoming more fall like, with increasing numbers of bass being trolled or jigged. Bluefish are so thick that it's impossible not to catch more than you want. Nice catches of flounders were reported over the weekend from Montauk, Noyac, Shinnecock, and Sag Harbor. Judging by the amount of blackfish seen this weekend, this may be a blackfish season that will go down in history.

MONTAUK

The Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County enjoyed their Annual Chappie Coonan Derby this weekend, spending a few days on charter and rental boats in a fishing marathon. On Thursday and Friday, club members on two boats rented at **Uihlein**'s caught 40 blackfish to 7 lbs. in weight, fishing at Shagwong, while on Saturday the group caught 120 flounders, top weight 3 pounds, on a 24 ft. rental boat. Jane and Ray Kreiger of Manorville spent a day on a **Uihlein**'s boat celebrating their anniversary. Both inexperienced anglers, they anchored along side the Salt Water Anglers for fishing lessons. As luck(?) would have it, the Krieger's returned with 16 blackfish, caught in one hour, all caught by Jane. On Sunday, Debra Altschuler and a friend fished Shagwong for three dozen flounders to 3 lbs. in weight, fishing alongside the fishing club.

Captain Fred Bird of the **Flying Cloud** said that nice large porgies (2-2½ lbs.) have moved into the Block Island area. Both the **Flying Cloud** and **Little Bear** enjoyed good fishing over the weekend taking many 5-8 lb. blackfish, codfish up to 12 lbs. and snowshoe flounders with the porgies.

Captain Richie Rade hit into good catches of big porgies Thursday, Friday, and Saturday fishing Block Island. Most anglers brought home anywhere from 30-60 porgies each on the **Marlin IV** with nice sea bass and blackfish. Friday and Saturday's bluefish trips were fantastic, with the boat returning back to the dock by midnight, everyone begging for mercy. Average bluefish catches are 30-40 per person, fish ranging in size from 15 to 24 lbs.

Viking Fleet cod trips have picked up since the dogfish slacked off over the weekend. On Saturday approxi-

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mately 50 cod were boated, top weight 35 lbs. On Sunday, the pool fish, one of 70 cod boated, was in the 40 lb. range. A few big pollock were caught as well on Sunday. Captain Paul Forsberg has run out of superlatives to describe the night bluefishing. Blues are large and numerous. Last week, a typical catch by Al Jr. and Sr. with Jeff Cash from Brookhaven Town was 75 blues from 15 to 21 lbs.

Edelman's Lou Rosado fished alone on his Blackfin at Southwest Ledge returning with 24 blackfish caught on a running tide. Six cod took diamond jigs with two of the cod, 8-15 lbs., bitten by bluefish as they were reeled in. Striper action seemed to be slow but steady both jigging and trolling, with the main problem being the fact that bluefish wouldn't give the bass a chance to get caught. Captain Steve Sekora jigged four bass, top weight 33 lbs., on a new jig undergoing testing before marketing. Steve had to catch 10 blues for each bass, however.

Capt. Phil Lewis of the **Adios** reports that a few bass were taken by Leon Jones and his party Sunday morning and afternoon fishing the Point, Shagwong, and close to the beach. He feels that with the full moon approaching bass fishing will pick up steadily. Call for information on bass and blackfish charters.

Radio chatter of a 150 lb. tuna caught on an unknown boat fishing southeast of Block Island was heard Saturday.

Capt. Bruce Kieffer called to say that the Mower group from Pa. caught one dozen bass to 33 lbs. on the **Ebbtide** on Saturday, fishing the point and the beach. On Sunday, a couple of bass along with many bluefish were caught on two trips.

A group from the Equitable Insurance Co. bailed monster blues on Wednesday, like fishing in a bluefish bowl on the **King Wayne**. On Thursday and Friday, the Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County fished for cod and blackfish. Friday's trip was exceptionally good on the southwest ledge with 42 blackfish to 12 lbs. caught on green crabs, along with 35 cod to 20 lbs. A couple of dozen small pollock topped the cooler. Fred Yamroz won the boat pool with his 12 lb. black. Over the weekend, the Mower group chartered several Montauk boats, including the **King Wayne**, **Joy-Sea**, **Bluefin**, **Ebbtide**, **Adios** to catch over 30 bass, top weight 35 lbs.

Capt. Bill Ricca has sold the **Allyssa Ann** and will have a new boat in the Spring, however, in the meantime he is using the Barbara Ann for bottom fishing. Last Sunday, Marty Serotta and two friends caught 71 blackfish to 7½ lbs. fishing with Capt. Ricca at the northern islands off Orient Point. With the blackfish, a 3 lb. porgy and 3½ lb. sea bass were caught. Call Capt. Ricca for charter information.

On Saturday, Captains Steve Mauss of the **Kraken II** and Howard Kiedaisch of the Reel Magic joined Captain Zac Grossman of the **Mako Express** in shanghaiing Elaine Bloom of Farmingville into joining them on Zac's boat for some blackfishing. Elaine then showed the captains how to catch a record fish! Her 5 lb. blackfish was caught on 4 lb. test freshwater tackle and has been submitted to the IGFA for a women's world record.

Last Thursday, I fished on the **Bluefin IV** with Capt. Michael Potts, his mate Billy Carman and friend John Erb for striped bass. Besides getting spectacular videotape of Capt. Potts' specialized bass fishing, we caught six bass—john's topping the scale at 39½ lbs. Bluefish were an incidental catch. I will present videotaped highlights of this trip on Fishing Forecast on November 2nd (Brookhaven Cable TV, Channel 6, 6PM).

Three stripers to 13 lbs. were among the catch on the **Julie III** on Saturday along with lots of bluefish, 2 blackfish to 11 lbs. and a cod jigged at the Point and the Elbow by Boris Dimetrius and his friends. On Sunday, Captain Ron Grandinetti returned to the scene with Mr. Rinaldo and his friends, boating a load of blues of 18¼ lbs.

Captain Mike Bentivegna Jr. of the **Pronto** fished Fishers and Gull Islands with Carl Jussen and his friend on Saturday for blackfish. The trio returned with over 30 blackfish, many

weighing over 10 lbs., taken on green crabs.

George Benatel and his 13-year old son Scott (Howard Beach, NY) enjoyed a combination black and blue trip to Gull Island with Capt. Jerry McGrath on the **Nostalgia II** where they found plenty of blues, cocktail size to 7 lbs., along with many medium size blackfish on Sunday.

John Marcone of the Sabre Rod Co. trolled three bass, top weight 40 lbs., on the **Sherri Berri** with Capt. Al Ristori before dawn on Tuesday. On Friday afternoon, Neil Conners of East Williston jigged at the Elbow for a couple of bass, the largest 38 lbs. Captain Ristori is looking forward to good bass action from now through the November full moon and predicts heavy action. A blackfish trip to Southwest Ledge showed spotty blackfish action, apparently dependent on tidal action.

Lil at **Captain's Cove Marina** remarked on the amount of bluefish within easy reach of the Point. Several stripers over 20 lbs. were brought in by Captain Fritz Hubner on the **Mistress Too** during the week. Captain Fred Laier went sharking over the weekend on the **Eagle** with Greg Allan who caught a blue shark of 142 lbs. and Bill Zolle who landed one of 247 lbs. On Sunday, Captain Laier returned to the spot with Jack Rapp of Sheepshead Bay, where they landed another blue shark, this one 254 lbs. Captain Laier has marked the spot and will return for round three this weekend.

The marina boat, Land's End, tried Outer Shagwong for blackfish on Thursday, returning to **Gone Fishing Marina** with 20 blacks, top weight 9 lbs. The Bon-E-Len fished Can 5 over the weekend for a couple of dozen flounder to 3 lbs. in size. Captain Bob Sztork has been jigging Cartwright, finding excellent bluefishing. On Sunday, Pastor Rob, Bernie and Eric caught over 60 blues to 14 lbs. on the **Caprice**, while on Saturday, Mike Conway and his friends counted 21 blackfish to 9 lbs. and several cod to 12 lbs. with their blues.

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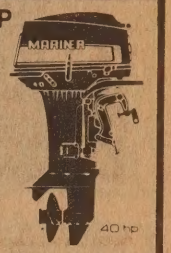

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SOUTH FORK

The **Wilhelric** enjoyed heavy blackfish action on Tuesday and Wednesday. On Tuesday Doc Klein and his wife, Mary, teamed for 43 blackfish top weight 8 lbs., while on Wednesday, the pool fish weighed over 11 lbs.! Captain Lach remarked that the water temperature rose four degrees in two days because of warm weather, perhaps slowing down the fish a bit over the weekend. On Sunday, although sharpies had as many as 25 fish apiece, it seemed that the fish were reluctant to bite. Fishing three states (New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island) on Sunday, incidental catches of porgies and large (to 5 lbs.) sea bass were made as well.

Chris Salb sent Mr. Ames and his friends out for porgies over the weekend. Instead they returned with a catch of 4 dozen flounder from 1 to 1¼ lbs. to **Bayview Marine and Tackle** in Sag Harbor. Try buoy 11, Sag Harbor Cove, just outside the breakwater.

Helen Jacobson saw a nice catch of flounder made by Gary Tweed and his children fishing the east side of Jessups near the fish traps on Sunday. On Thursday, Harry and Barbara Smith fished east of the Shelter Island Ferry Slip at Smith Cove, returning to **Noyac Marina** with over two dozen flounders all over 10 inches. The marina will open daily at 8AM for flounder fishermen.

Thom Speckenbah feels that the water temperature (low 60s) is still a bit warm to liven up the flounder in the Basket in Shinnecock, however, nice catches were made in Heady Creek over the weekend. "Bill" and his friends fished the Brickyard off Southold over the weekend for blacks armed with a bushel of green crabs. The fish they encountered were so hungry and aggressive, that they ran out of bait and had to get another 1/2 bushel. The group kept about 40 blackfish over 5 lbs. of the more than 300 which jumped on their hooks and brought them to **Speck's Bait and Tackle**. Lots of bluefish in the ocean off Shinnecock.

Fred at **Altenkirch & Son** in Hampton Bays that the bluefish are everywhere, east and west of the inlet, in the inlet and in the ocean, with sizes ranging from 3 to 18 lbs. Edwin Zolnier caught an 18 lb. blue over the weekend, and is having it sent to a taxidermist for mounting. Flounder fishing in the bays has been slow due perhaps to warm water, however, flounder, blacks and porgies are still passing through the canal, providing good action. Snappers are gone.

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Joyce Simone is pretty happy about the 17½ lb. blue she decked on a recent trip out of Captree. The big chopper was taken on a whole butterfish at the Oregon wreck.

South Shore REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

While fog played havoc with boatmen on the weekend, those that were able to get out found a continued mixed bag of flounder, blackfish, sea bass and a couple of porgies. Moriches Inlet was well supplied with big blues, tiderunner weaks and cow bass and there are plenty of big blues just outside both inlets for jiggers and trollers. Blackfishing on the Fire Island Ocean Reef took off late last week and continued excellent through much of the weekend.

MORICHES BAY & INLET

Boatmen drifting live blackfish, eels and bunker inside Moriches Inlet have been taking weaks in the 10-14 pound class, blues to 19 pounds and bass to 40 on outgoing water. On Thursday night, Butch Kursner nailed a 40 pound 8 ounce striper. He also had a blackfish of 12 pounds 9 ounces taken while catching his bait. Crabbing is now the best of the year in this area. Bruce "The Crab King" who operates out of **Cerullo Bros. Fishing Station** had a large catch of huge blueclaws on Sunday. Catches of 50 big crabs per man have been the rule this past week. Traps, rings and handlines all work.

Rosemary Fedorco of the open boat **Alma** said that fares have been taking a mixed bag of blacks, porgies and flounder. Also a few sea bass at buoys 45 and 39 and inside Seatuck Cove. Both clams and worms are working in the bait department. She too noted the surge in activity with big blue claws. Many are being taken on flounder hooks.

Over at **Seatuck Cove** Andy Hegeman labelled the flounder action as decent though he feels the best action has been delayed by the recent warm spell. Still catches of 20-50 per boat are common with most of the fish averaging ¾ pound. He named the mouth of Seatuck Creek, Seatuck Cove and Haven's Point as best bets. During the week Bob Stevens took 53 flatties in Seatuck Creek on sandworms and mussel chum during incoming water.

Warm weather and fog ruined the plans of most flounder fans in this area according to Larry of **L & M Marine** in **East Moriches**. There was a good showing of fish at mid-week however. One of the better scores was made by Don Costello, Ron Willow

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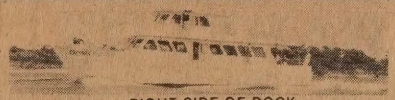
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and Herb Brofsky all of Irvington, NY on Thursday. The trio put away 72 keepers fishing the 'Ace in the Hole'. They used heavy mussel and corn chum and sandworms.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

Big blue claw crabs made the news in this area as well. According to Paul Graniello of **J & J Tackle** in **Patchogue** this past week saw lots of big blue claws taken on the east side of the Smith Point Bridge but also from local docks. There are also flounder in both spots with boatmen scoring best using heavy clam or mussel chum and worms. Paul weighed a 25 pound striper which was taken by Kurt Roeloffs while livelining in Moriches Inlet.

There was some decent flounder action in the State Channel near the Amity Cut as well as a fair pick of fish in Dickerson and West Channels and off of Heckscher Park this past week. This according to Al Colban of **J & R Sports Center** in **Oakdale**. Blackfishing on the reef was fair but there was some excellent fishing on the F.I. Ocean Reef over the weekend. Also some good scores made near the Coast Guard Station and near the R.M. Bridge. Big blues are outside the inlet for trollers and jiggers and one boatman even managed a few fluke in the Inlet on Saturday. White perch now in pretty good supply in the Connetquot River with small killies working best.

Capt. Charlie Kennedy of the **Captree** based **Capt. Joseph II** said that after a couple of tough days of sinker bouncing due to a big ground swell, the Ocean Reef and inshore wrecks came a live with blackfish on Friday. Blackfish now predominate with some sea bass and a few porgies still mixed in. Both Friday and Saturday were excellent days and while Sunday was not up to the previous day's pace catches were still good. On Saturday, over 800 blackfish including 30 fish in the 6-9 pound class came over the rail. Charlie noted that those able to fish during the week would be wise to take advantage of this excellent action when crowds are at a minimum.

Capt. George Tweedy of the **Captree** open boat **Capt. Scotty 3** reported excellent bluefishing all week long with the exception of Saturday. On Friday, a 21½ pounder was taken and is the current leader in the boat's bluefish derby. Prize money is now at $1100. Sunday morning's trip saw fares get in on some very good sea bass action atop one of George's pet wrecks.

Capt. Carl Passero of the open boat **Miss Captree** filed a report similar to Charlie Kennedy's. He noted that the heave hurt fishing during the week but said that the F.I. Ocean Reef has been alive with blackfish since Friday. Fifteen fares on Saturday's trip accounted for over 500 blacks to 8 pounds. On Friday's trip Joe Keegan nailed down the pool with a 9.13 pounder. He also had 18 other tautog. The first cod of the season, a 12.4 pounder, was taken on Sunday's trip by Lillian Cvecich. She had 25 blacks and sea bass along with her cod. Carl reminded that this blackfishing should last right through November as the fish have definitely settled in on the inshore grounds.

Moving over to **Oak Beach**, Jim O'Neill of **The Store** spoke of good blackfishing from the rocks at Oak Beach and also from the Sore Thumb on fiddler crabs. Just a few flounder coming from the Oak Beach shore with the best of this fishing yet to come. Boatmen have been working over big blues just outside the inlet. Fish are being trolled and jigged. Tom Byrnes had 15 slammers on Thursday and another 15 on Friday. They ranged from 14-16 pounds and were taken on jigs.

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in **Babylon**, Tom Healy reported a catch of 65 flatties to 2½ pounds for Mike Franco on Thursday. Fishing alone, he worked Bergen Point with clam and mussel chum and bloodworms. Customers told of decent flatfish action at the Babylon Cut, Dickerson Channel and Good Sam as well as Bergen Point. Babylon Tuna Club member Gaspar Garaputo journeyed to Moriches to put an 8.10 pound tautog aboard his Karen E.

The shallows south of the Babylon Pool produced 47 flatties to 2 pounds for Joe Uss and his family on Saturday. Mike Andreani of **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle** who looked over the catch said that clam chum and bloodworms turned the trick. He added that while some customers did very poor with the flatties, those who worked at it had some very good scores. Better catches came from Bergen Point, Squaw Island, south of the Babylon Pool and off of Good Sam Hospital. Mike also put in a word for the excellent showing of blue claw crabs in the Oak Beach Cove on rings and traps. Nearly all are king size. Blues from 10-15 pounds being trolled regularly just outside the inlet on umbrella rigs. There is some very good blackfish action near the Coast Guard Station with one boatman taking 22 blacks to 8 pounds. Also some big catches being made on the Rota Wreck, weather permitting.

Ralph Angelillo of **Z Crab Tackle** in **Patchogue** knew that the private boat Hot Potato did a good job on big blues and a few weaks working the beach west of Gilgo with umbrella rigs. Some boatmen have been jig ging the fish as well. Ralph also knew that one troller working the beach east of the inlet was boarded by DEC officers and fined for posession of short bass. A tip of the hat to these COs for being on top of the situation. There was some offshore news this week as well with Billy Wenzel of the Traveler taking a 187 pound mako at the Yankee Wreck near the end of last week. On Sunday, another boat dropped an estimated 400 pound class mako at the same spot. Inside the bay a fair number of good sized flounder are being taken at Bergen Point. Less quality but better numbers are at Amity Cut. Still good blackfishing in the bay and lots of big crabs being taken from the cove at Oak Beach in traps.

Bob Vitale of **Bob's Bait and Tackle** reported decent flounder action in Babylon Cut, Copiague Hole and Bergen Point. Blackfish to 8 pounds still coming from Kismet Reef and big blues are along the beach for jiggers and trollers. Some surprisingly large catches of very big blue claw crabs being made in the Oak Beach Cove. Big crabs also coming from Bergen Point.

Over at **Edelman's** in **Farmingdale**, Frank Pristera spoke of good flounder fishing off Strongs and Bergen Point in Copiague and Babylon. Very good blackfishing on the Rota Wreck and also good action on the Kismet Reef. The private boat Bali did a very good job on monster blues at Cholera through most of the week. They jigged the fish. Capt. Sig and Frank Signorelli of the **Seaford** charter boat **3 Sea Sons** discovered schools of migrating weaks, blues and tuna in 120' of water southwest of the inlet during the week. Blues to 17 pounds, weaks to 16 pounds and tuna ranging from 30 to 200 pounds were massed in migrating schools in the area. Jig and tube combos accounted for all three species and if there is no abrupt change in the weather, Capt. Sig expects the fish to remain in the area through the week.

West End REPORT
with Stu Miller

IF the bluefishing could be any better than it is now, I would like someone to show me just how. Virtually all of the blues being caught these days are the super alligator variety from 13 to 23 lbs. And if you've never had one of these beasts on a line, you don't know what you're missing. Flounder seem to be picking up while blackfish remain very strong at bridges, rocks and reefs.

WEST END BAYS/ JONE'S INLET

We hear from **Pop's Fishing Station** in Seaford that lots of heavy chumming has been producing continued good flounder catches for his skiff rentals. Walter, Ben and Sparky from Massapequa totaled 50 good flatties on worms working both side of the Wantagh bridges. Blackfish and kingfish are also being taken at the bridges on fiddlers and worm respectively and some gigantic BCCs are being taken in the deeps at the bridges.

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . –0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." –0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	9:00	9:20	9:45	10:10	9:35	10:00	10:25	10:55	12:15	12:30	12:00	12:15	8:50	9:15	10/25
FRI.	9:45	10:10	10:35	11:00	10:25	10:50	11:10	11:50	1:05	1:15	12:50	1:05	9:40	10:05	10/26
SAT.	10:35	11:00	11:25	11:50	11:15	11:45	12:00	12:45	1:55	2:05	1:40	1:55	10:30	10:55	10/27
SUN.	10:25	10:55	11:15	11:45	11:10	11:45	11:55	—	1:50	1:55	1:35	1:50	10:20	10:50	10/28
MON.	11:20	11:50	—	12:10	—	12:05	12:40	12:55	2:55	3:00	2:30	3:00	11:15	11:45	10/29
TUES.	—	12:15	12:45	1:10	12:45	1:05	1:45	1:55	4:05	4:20	3:30	3:45	—	12:15	10/30
WED.	12:50	1:10	1:50	2:10	1:45	2:00	2:50	3:05	5:15	5:35	4:30	4:50	12:45	1:15	10/31
THURS.	1:50	2:10	2:55	3:15	2:40	2:55	4:00	4:10	6:15	6:40	11:45	—	1:50	2:15	10/1

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	–0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 48
Long Branch	–0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	–0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	–0 12
Seaside Park	–0 33
Mantoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	–0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	–0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	–0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	–0 02
Rehobeth Beach	–0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	–0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	–0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	–0 38
Democrat Point	–0 38
Coast Guard Station	–0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	–0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	–0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	–0 20
Truman Beach	–0 42
Falkner Island	–0 13
Sachem Head	–0 10
Branford Harbor	–0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	–0 08
Milford Harbor	–0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	–0 03
Saugatuck River entrance	–0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	–0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	–0 14
Montauk Inlet	–0 25
Montauk Point, north side	–1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	–0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	–0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	–0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	–0 10
Execution Light	0 06
Manhasset Bay	–0 01
Hempstead Harbor	–0 11
City Island	–0 03
Rye Beach	–0 28
Port Chester	–0 09
Mamaroneck	–0 08
New Rochelle	–0 24
Davids Island	–0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	–0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	–0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	–1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	–0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	–0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	–0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	–0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 10/25	7:25	6:03
FRI. 10/26	7:26	6:02
SAT. 10/27	7:27	6:01
SUN. 10/28	6:28	4:59
MON. 10/29	6:29	4:58
TUE. 10/30	6:30	4:57
WED. 10/31	6:31	4:55

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 10/25	8:34AM	6:53PM
FRI. 10/26	9:52AM	7:32PM
SAT. 10/27	11:05AM	8:17PM
SUN. 10/28	11:14AM	8:10PM
MON. 10/29	12:12AM	9:09PM
TUE. 10/30	1:00AM	10:12PM
WED. 10/31	1:38AM	11:16PM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
10/24	10/31	11/8	11/16

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	6:00	—	6:20	12:15
Fri.	6:55	12:40	7:30	1:15
Sat.	8:00	1:50	8:35	2:20
Sun.	7:50	1:45	8:30	2:15
Mon.	9:00	2:55	9:40	3:25
Tues.	10:05	3:50	10:35	4:20
Wed.	11:00	4:55	11:35	5:15
Thurs.	11:50	5:40	—	6:00

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From Scott at **Merrick Tackle** in Bellmore we learned of fair flounder catches being made in Merrick Bay, particularly at Merrick Point and off the golf course on worms, fish going from 1/2 to 1 lb. The LIF staff would like to congratulate Scott on his recent marriage.

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** in Merrick told of some very good flounder catches made right through Sunday in Broad Creek and at Merrick Point. Heavy chumming is a key factor for success. Jimmy also told of some big weakfish taken on both live bunker, chunked bunker and diamond jigs at the Wantagh bridges. Monster bluefish of which Jimmy weighed in a 19½ lb. specimen are doing their act at Cholera and also being trolled from West Bar to Long Beach in 40 to 50 feet of water with bunker spoons appealing to the larger fish.

Moving over to the Freeport fleet, a call from the **Freeport Boatmen's Association** told again of the very big bluefish being caught from three miles off the beach out to Cholera with bait and chum working best, followed by jigging. The Association's charter boats have all been coming in early with arm-weary fares all week and weekend long. The **Super Spray II** has been loading up with big blackfish and a scattering of sea bass and porgies on wrecks and productive pieces.

A call from the charter boat **Nan-Sea** told of Saturday's trip to a local wreck and all aboard loading up in a half day with blackfish to 7½ lbs. Green crabs were the ticket. Sundays trip for Fred Brewington of Hempstead saw excellent bluefish catches up to 18 lbs. on bait and chum with action constant all day.

The **Star Stream II** had and excellent Thursday and Friday on blackfish up to 7 lbs. and sea bass from 1 to 2 lbs. The skipper said 6 and 7 lb. blackfish were common. Action has been at local wrecks, not too far from the dock according to the captain. Sunday's fishing was decent but not quite as good as Thursday and Friday. Please note that the boat has switched over to blacks and sea bass sailing 6:30 AM daily.

Word from Capt. Al Lindroth of the **Capt. Al** is that lots of big blues were caught Saturday and Sunday utilizing jigs in the AM and bait in the PM for choppers to 18 lbs. Due to customer request, and the fact that the fall bottom fishing is so strong, Al advised he is now switching to an all-day, $20 fall special for sea bass, blues, blacks and porgies, sailing at 6:30AM daily. See ad for details.

Captain Mike Dannon of the **Capt. Lou Fleet** had good things to say ab about the week's floundering, with daily high hooks in the 50s and 60s. Tuesday saw Pat Peruly with 61 flatties, while Friday had Hy Roth with 62. Aboard the half day boat, catches were good all week and were super on Wednesday said Mike. Gary Neglia and sons hoisted 62 flounder. Harry O and wife Mrs. O, had 67. Wednesday PM saw Howie, a regular with 49. Catches slowed a bit on the weekend with the unfavorable tides. Mike says he is having a customers' party December 1st on the boat and to call for info.

Aboard the charter boat **Captain Geary** Saturday saw great blackfishing for the Square Deal Fishing Club on a few local wrecks. Charlie took the pool with a 9½ lber. while Artie took high hook honors with 34. Plenty of individuals had catches of 20 to 25 fish a man, with fish averaging 4 lbs. on green crab and clam. Sunday's trip for Tin Pan Alley Pub had all gorilla blues at Cholera on bait. Russ took the pool with an 18 lber, while Ray was high hook with 12 blues. All fish ran 10 to 18 lbs.

Captain Pat of the charter boat **Lady J III** on Friday fished Justrite Forms Corp of NYC with an inshore wreck producing a good catch of blacks and sea bass. On Saturday the Dr. John Palumbo group from Yonkers had jumbo inshore blues on bait and chum. Sunday's offshore tuna trip racked up two 40 lb. BFTs, a load of jumbo blues and a couple of doggies.

Out of nearby Point Lookout, Capt. Ron of the **Miss Point Lookout** spoke of excellent flounder catches most days with larger fish showing up at mid-week. Although there were a couple of tough days during the week the prospect for fall flatties is very good. High hooks on the half day trips have been from the mid-20s to high 30s. Drew Heitner scored with 38 flounder on Friday's PM trip. Saturday's PM trip saw 39 in the bucket for Peggy Ross. Peggy returned Sunday AM, bagging 25 more flounder including the 2½ lb. pool winner. Bob Zupka bagged a 2 lb. 3 oz. pool fish Saturday. Best action has been all around the high on bloods in Reynolds, Long and Swift Creeks.

Also fishing 2 half day trips daily, the **Capt. Bill** on Wedensday has Westbury regular Roosevelt Rogers zapping 52 flounder including the pool winner while regular Lee of Westbjruy settled for 32 fish. On Thursday Doug Karmaman took the pool with a 3 lb. flounder, while Friday saw Rowland Giunitini of Port Washington with 28 flatties. The weekend saw high hooks from the high teens to the high 20s. Best action has been north of Loop bridge. Please note starting November 1st, the boat will be sailing weekends only.

We learn from Marilyn at **Ed's**

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Fishing Station that on Wednesday, Mark Peschanski of Bellmore on his boat My 3 Sons jigged four blues to 16 lbs. 4 oz. fishing due south of the Jones Beach tower. Valley Stream angler Ken Varricchio bagged a 15 lb. 15 oz. blue on a bunker chunk using 12 lb. test. A 12 lb. weak was taken while retrieving a snagged bunker by Freeport angler Wes Rowcroft. Flounder activity has been fairly good at Swift, Creek at the Big M, off the CG station and in the Middle Bay flats. Some blackfish at the Long Creek and M bridge and some small sea bass and porgies scattered throughout the bay.

Aboard the charter boat **Marie III** Saturday was a slaughter on dinosaur blues fished SW of the inlet in 50 - 60 feet of water on bait and chum. Pool winner was Anthony Holmes with a 22 lber. plus 15 other choppers. Jerry Murphy scored with a 21 lber. and 12 other blues. High hook was Bob Ottmann with 23. First timer 10-year-old John Thomson had 6 blues. This trip was for the Alert Fire Dept. of Rockville Centre. Sunday's charter in the AM had a good catch of blackfish and some sea bass on various inshore pieces. Blacks went to 6 lbs. and the sea bass to 3/4 lbs. In the PM* it was a slow pick on blues highlighted by 12-year old Eric Negy decking a 19½ lber.

A call from **Scotty's Fishing Station** told of Harry Miller of Oceanside with his 3¼ lb. blackfish taken at the Big M on a green crab and Harvey Holmes with a 2½ lb. black. Ted Kuzer and Sid Steinberg bagged a 2½ lb. black. Flounder are picking up in Swift Creek and Reynolds Channel on worm and clam chum while blues are being caught from the west bar to Long Beach in 50 to 60 feet of water. Cholera is producing jumbo 10 to 17 lb. class blues.

Word from **Beckmann's Tackle** in Lynbrook told of plenty of blackfish from 1/2 o 6 lbs. at all the bridges, wrecks and rocks, going up to 9 lbs. at the inlet jetties. 13 year old Ken Gerrity of Garden City on Saturday AM took a 9½ lb. blue on a Hopkins at field 6, his first surf caught blue, which is being mounted. Flounder being caught in Reynolds channel and the creeks feeding it, with best catches attrituable to lots of chumming.

A call from **Long Beach Sports Marina** told of flounder catches in good numbers and sizes for those chumming heavily. Best areas were Duck Point, buoys 9 and the railroad trestle area. Fish have been averaging 1½ lbs. Blackfishing has been good at bridges and wrecks. Blues and school bass being trolled at the Tin Can on umbrellas. Alligator blues being trolled on bunker spoons off Long Beach in 30 feet of water.

From Al at **Reynolds Reef Fishing Station** in Atlantic Beach came further word of gorilla blues at 17 Fathoms, Cholera and off Lido in 40 feet of water on large bunker spoons. Two to three lb. blackfish at the Atlantic beach bridge and Silver Point Jetty and beach 9th Street jetty. Still some fluke off Rockaway Playland. Winners of the Atlantic Beach Rod and Gun Club bluefish tournament went to three anglers aboard the boat Four Queens fishing 17 Fathoms. Jessie York, 19.4 blue; J. York with an 18 lber., and Vic Genduso with a 17 lber.

NEW YORK BIGHT

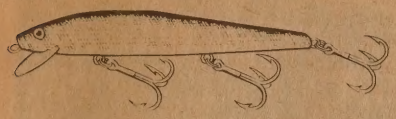
John at **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** told of good blackfishing on fiddler and clam but catches on the down swing while showing stronger now are flounder at the north and south channel bridges on worms. Six year old Brian Dortch had a 14 lb. blue on a bunker chunk on outgoing tide off the Long Beach jetty.

Over in Sheepshead Bay Captain Tommy of the **Pilot II**, local blackfish specialist spoke of the excellent blackfishing he's had the last week and a half. Catches have been from 30 to 50 blackfish a man (for good blackfishermen). Big fish of the week was 12.13 lb. specimen for George Upton of Queens. Fish are averaging 2 to 9 lbs. and it's Tommy's Jersey coast hotspots that are being worked.

Captain Bob Weigand of the **Flamingo III** said it's been a super slaughter on gorilla blueish with some days bait working best and some days diamonds working best. Fish this week have gone up to a true 23½ lbs. The boat has been coming in early all week with arm-weary customers and all big fish. Action has been at 17 Fathoms, BA and Farms, with fish from 12 lbs. and up. These have been unbelievable days said the skipper. Sunday was not great but was still classified good. Bob will be bluefishing until the blues leave the area.

According to Wee Willie at **Mike's Bait and Tackle** the blackfishing has been very good, both in numbers and size. John Maniscalto fishing the

Rockaway jetty took a 28¾ lb. bass on a bunker chunk. Bluefishing has been an out and out slaughter while flounder are good and continue to improve in the bay. A very good week's fall fishing said the wee one.



North Shore REPORT

with Mrs. Lorry Mangan

Blackfish are a sure thing in all parts of the Sound with incidental catches of very large porgies, some over four pounds, especially around Port Jefferson. Large bluefish are roaming the beaches and are feeding on bunker in the harbor. A few fluke were caught by bluefishermen, as were bonita. Flounder are picking up in quantity and size, indicating a potentially strong fall run. Striper catches are increasing.

WESTERN SOUND

Sharpies on the **Apache** are bagging 15-20 blackfish per angler per trip, with the fish ranging from 2-11 lbs. in weight. On Friday 10 year old Rachael Heller caught a ten pounder, however lost the pool to Frank Civlla's 11 pound bulldog. Blackfishing seems to be at its peak now with green crabs the best bait. The **Apache** will be blackfishing until the end of November.

Anglers on the **Sea King** enjoyed good fishing off Norwal all week with blacks to 9 lbs. On Saturday a few porgies from ¾ to 1½ lbs. were taken on worms baited on a high hook above the blackfish rigs. The **Sea King** will be sailing until November 15th.

John, at **Jack's Bait & Tackle** in **City Island** counted 45 blacks in the catch made by Agusto and Cosmos on their boat "Aggrevation II" on Thursday. The pair said that blacks were all over, with green crabs the best bait. Flounders are getting more reliable, try worms at Orchid Beach. The **North Star II** did very well on blackfish, with 10-15 fish per angler not unusual. Pool fish is usually in the 9-10 lb. range.

At **John's Gun & Tackle**, the excitement is about the excellent Fall blackfishing, with all local rock piles producing well on green crabs. The fall flounder run is underway, although there are still a few fluke and snappers around. Trolling umbrella

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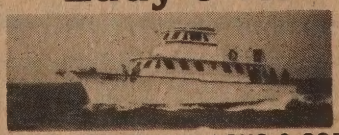

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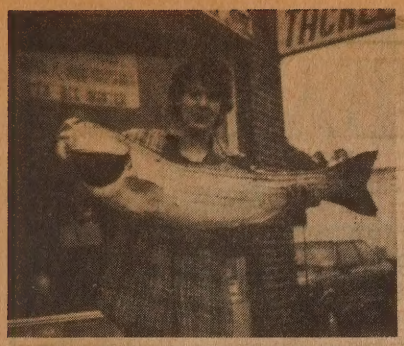

Dave Bunai beached this 29½ lb. striper at Montauk. The fish took a yellow Gibbs casting swimmer (Bottle Plug). Photo courtesy of Rocky Point Fishing Stop.

rigs, with white tubes best, is taking school bass at Execution Rock.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

Rick at **Caraftis Fishing Station** has heard of blackfish 10 lbs. caught at the Shoreham Pipeline on green crabs. Reliable catches of blacks are made closer to home at Old Field Point. Large porgies ar hanging in the deep water off Cranes Neck and Old Field Point, although the tides over the weekend made fishing for them difficult. Very large blues are working under bunker in Port Jefferson Harbor.

Many anglers are fishing from their moored boats in front of **Ralph's Fishing Station** for flounder. Youngster Sal Niel pulled in a 2½ lb. flounder on his mooring on Sunday. Bluefish are schooled at Buoy 9 with all you want of cocktail size blues taking diamond jigs. Some large fish, 12-14 lbs., were jigged on the dropoff at Buoy 11. A couple of bonita took jigs at Buoy 9 over the weekend. A very surprised angler caught 6 fluke while jigging blues south of Buoy 11 on Thursday. Good blackfishing at Middle Grounds, Shoreham, and close to the beaches according to Barbara Davenport. She has also heard of several striped bass taken by boat east of Hallock Landing Road.

Captain Bruce Cash of the **Prowler** states that blackfishing is excellent. Catches of very large porgies, some weighed over four pounds, were made in deep water this past week.

Fishing dentist, Dr. Jack Gianolla, returned to **Ralph's Fishing Station** on Sunday with 62 blackfish, the largest 10 lbs. 1 oz., using green crabs. It has been noticed that many of the blackfish caught in the Shoreham area are stuffed with sandeels.

Bob at **Huntington Prop and Tackle** reports excellent blackfishing south of Buoy 11B and near 28C on the Conneticut side, with many fish to 6 lbs. taken over the weekend. Good catches of flounders were made from the Huntington and Lloyd Harbor docks over the weekend. Although bluefishing slowed down, some fish were found at the OB Buoy. A few bass took jigs this week at Buoy 13, while worm trolling did not produce too well. The **Ever-Ready II** did well on blackfish working the mussel bed south of Buoy 13, filling the buckets for a group of Boy Scouts.

At **Greenlawn Sport Shop**, Mel spoke of blackfish to 8 lbs. taken at Buoy 11B, although the average is 4-6 lbs. Bob Masucci hooked a six pounder at this spot. Lots of porgies, 1½ to 2 lbs., took worm bait. Bluefish appeared slow, however flounder is picking up, with the Mill Dam Bridge at Centerport a recent hot spot for 1 to 1½ lb. flounders. There are rumors of a few small bass in the triangle.

At **Four Winds Bait & Tackle**, George remarked about the excellent blackfishing with consistant action at Buoy 11B and 24C all last week, slowing down a little with Sunday's wind and tide. Big bluefish in the 10-15 lb. range are roaming around from Coopers Bluff to City Island, best caught on whole or chunked bunker. Bass remain a slow pick, with some fish to 10 lbs. reported. Worms working best on bass at Buoy 13 with umbrella rigs and worms taking bass to the OB Buoy. There appear to be lots of shorts inshore.

A round of applause is due to the officers of the DEC for their vigilence and dedication in checking bass catches in the Sound.

Mom, at **Sutler LTD.** in **Port Jefferson** says that plenty of blackfish are around, close in as well as a Middle Grounds. Porgies are still a good bet off Cranes Neck and Old

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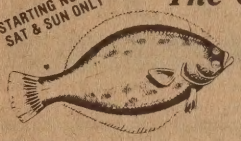

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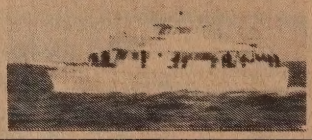

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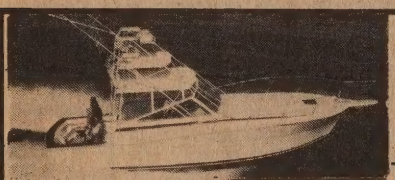

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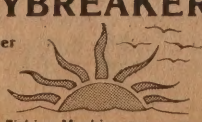

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A recent trip aboard the Orient based open boat, "Prime Time II," produced this 8½ lb. tautog for John Vaughn of Islip.

Field Point. Plenty of blues close to the beaches.

Maureen at the **Mattituck Fishing Station** says everyone is still porgy fishing, with the action close to the Inlet, both sides. Sizes of porgies are mixed, 1½ to 3½ lbs. Blackfish from 4-9 lbs. have been caught in all usual blackfish haunts. Very large blues, 15-16 lbs. were caught trolling rigs on wire this weekend.

NORTH FORK

Captain Clark Bellows found blackfish at Gull and Little Gull Islands up to nine pounds during the week, with Fridays trip on the **Prime Time II** especially good. Nice flounders can be found in the Sound at Orient. On Sunday the blackfish practically leaped into the boat with East Northport resident Vincent Mandera winning the pool with an 8 lb. blackfish and Elmira Wilk taking second. A few big porgies and flounder are taking clam bait. Captain Ciccotto asked me to tell you that this is his last full week of sailing. Starting October 27th, the **Prime Time II** will fish on Saturday, Sundays, and Election Day and Veteran's Day.

The east end is alive with bluefish. Try Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, The Race. Porgies were caught off Fischers Island and near the Conneticut Shore. Bass are showing up under the blues.

Captain Pete Izzo found lots of blackfish over the weekend on the **Bo-Anne**. On Friday 55 blacks to 7 lbs. were caught in deep water off Orient with John Zanbardi and his friends from Con Ed. Two dozen nice flounders, rounded off the catch. Pete remarked with surprise that there apparently are some fluke around, since three fluke took skimmer clam meant for blacks. On Sunday, the **Bo-Anne** fished the drop off in Plum Gut with Arthur Silverman, returning with 75 blackfish to 8 lbs. Most fish were caught in feeding blitzes of 2-3 hours with slack times in between. Loads of boats appeared to be bailing blues on jigs in the Gut.

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Surf REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

The big news along the beachfront this week included Montauk finally coming to life with good numbers of big bass taken since Thursday night. Also in the limelight was the success of the weekends NY Surf Bluefish Contest held between Jones Beach and Robert Moses State Park. While the real big blues that had become synonymous with Cedar Beach pulled a disappearing act, the winning fish were certainly nothing to sneeze at. All 10 places were occupied by fish between just under 15 on up to 16.4 pounds. A complete rundown on the contest will follow in next week's issue.

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Starting down west, Charlie Beckmann of **Beckmann's Tackle Shop** in **Lynbrook** checked out any number of bass in the 8 to 14 pound range over Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Most came from Parking Field 6, Jones Beach and were taken on Needlefish plugs, Rebels and tin and dropper combos. Blues up to 12 pounds were taken by bait fishermen along the same stretch of beach. Over at West End II the action amounted to a few scool bass and a scattering of blues.

Al Slavik weighed a 14 pound blue which was taken at Jones Beach on Saturday. It was checked by Al Colban at **J & R Sports Center** in **Oakdale**. Steve Golofaro had 9 blues up to 12 pounds along Gilgo on Saturday night. The fish were taken on pencil poppers, darters and Needlefish plugs.

Big blues roam in and out between Gilgo, Cedar and Robert Moses during the weekend. Many of the fish were taken on bait with mackerel and eels leading the list. At least one good bass came from the Democrat surf during the week. Ralph Angelillo of **Z Crab Tackle** in **Copiague** put a 36 pound cow on the scale Tuesday morning for a caster who preferred anonymity. He did say that the fish was taken on a Rebel.

Carl Piazza used a mackerel chunk to take a 16 pound blue at Cedar Beach on Sunday morning. He weighed the fish at **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle** and told Mike Andreani that another caster using live eels beached between 10 and 12 big blues that morning.

There was a sprinkling of weakfish mixed with some blues and short bass at Robert Moses Field 4 on the weekend. At least 4 weaks were taken on Saturday morning and 2 more on Sunday. Tin and tube combos have become popular through much of the area since the appearance of sandeels following last week's storm.

To the east, Paul Graniello of **J & J Tackle** in **Patchogue** spoke of a pick of blues and also a couple of bass in the 10-20 pound range along the Smith Point shore through the week and weekend. Blues were taken on tin and bait with bait fishermen having the edge during the daylight hours. On Thursday morning, Joe Romano used a big Rebel to take a 21½ pound bass from this stretch of beach. Andy Torre and Joe Modica, both Patchogue Fishing Club members, used bait to take four blues up to 14 pounds on Saturday night. They also told of dropping several fish on darters. Paul knew that Shinnecock Inlet and beaches to the west were loaded with 3-5 pound blues all week long. There were occasional flurries with big blues as well.

Thom Speckenbach of **Speck's Bait and Tackle** in **Southampton** confirmed the bluefish action in the Shinnecock area and reported similar activity on the east side of the Inlet. An occasional bass coming from the east side as well.

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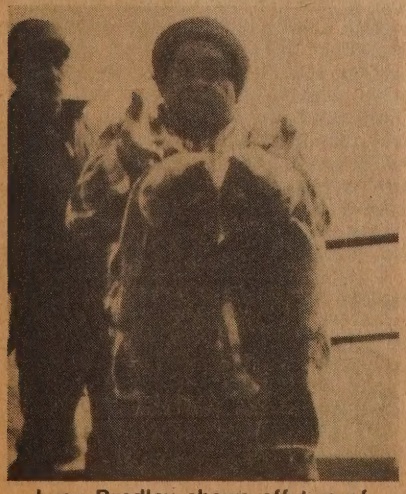

Lucy Bradley shows off two of the blacks she landed during a recent trip aboard the City Island open boat, "Sea King."

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As we mentioned earlier, **Montauk** came alive this weekend with a good number of bass from the teens up into the 40 pound class taken by casters working between North Bar and the Lighthouse. Aside from the Light, wetsuiters again had the edge. Johnny Kronuck of **Johnny's Tackle Shop** ran down the weekend score. Jay Griffin had a 43 along with a pair of teen fish on Friday night. He added a 36 pounder on Saturday night. Steve Bunai nailed fish of 17 and 36 pounds Thursday night and returned to take bass of 15, 18 and 25 pounds on Sunday. Gary Hall had a 38 pound cow on Saturday night. Also on Saturday night, 'Lilco Joe' Guhanick pulled bass of 41, 33, 17 and 17 along with several lesser fish. Mike Campanelli and Joe Sapienza drilled 8 bass from 10 to 34 pounds out of the Point between Thursday night and Friday morning. Needlefish plugs were a hot ticket as they were last fall at Montauk. Nearly all of the fish reported here fell to Gibbs and Superstrike Needlefish plugs. There was another significant fish weighed at Johnny's on the weekend and though it lacked stripes it was no less impressive. Ten year old Pete Maxey landed his first good fish from the surf. It was a 14 pound blukefish. Speaking of blues, John told of big blues along the south side beaches on a couple of occasions last week. Fish showed behind town, at Gurney's and at the Towers with tin and tube combos accounting for the bulk of the action. John also noted that there was some activity with shorts and school bass along Shagwong over the weekend.

From **Greenlawn Sport Shop** came a report of a 42 pound cow taken at Montauk on Saturday night. Locally, Nick Samaratina of East Northport used a Creek Chub popper to take a 14 pound striper from the Northport shore.

Over at **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** Stan Hentschel reported lots of bass now in the area. They range from shorts up to 12 pounds with an occasional teen fish being taken. The best action seems to be spread along the beaches between Baiting Hollow west to Port Jefferson. Locally, Broadway Beach and Hagerman and Hallocks Landings have been producing bass as well as bluefish. RedFins or Bombers fished behind droppers are taking the bass. Tins and plugs take blues in the 3-5 pound class mornings and evenings with big blues falling to bait in the Shoreham area.

It was called to my attention from several sources that there has been some abuse of the 24" size limit now in effect for stripers. In some cases, anglers pleaded ignorance while other violators, particularly in the case of pin hookers have been much more flagrant. A warning to all that DEC officers are cracking down on this situation and a word to the wise that if we can't adhere to these minimal restrictions that a federal moratorium is a very real possibility in the near future.

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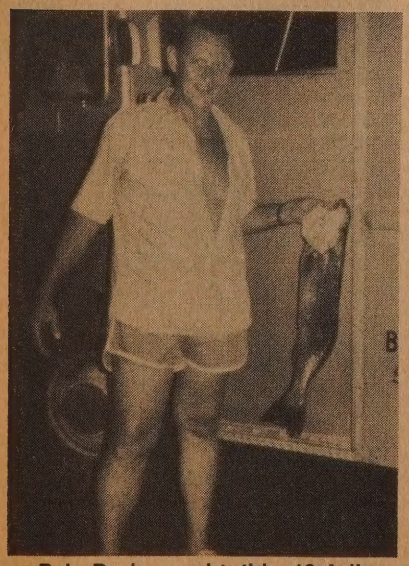

Bob Bach caught this 10.4 lb weak in Hempstead Harbor back on September 22. Subscriber photo.

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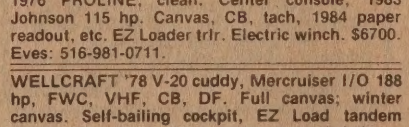

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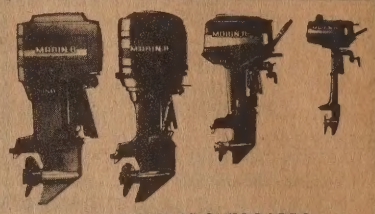

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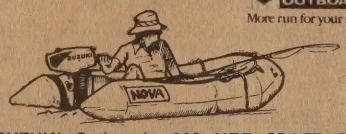

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28' Fiberglass fishing machine, twin 270 I/B Crusaders 1979. Low hrs. Cuddy cabin, fully lined & cushioned. Sleeps 2. Stainless steel, tower. Compl. dual controls, 2 custom steel tower compl. dual controls, 2 custom teak-tackle boxes, 2 gin poles, outriggers, 4 batt. w/switchover, 250 gal. fuel capacity. New canvass encl., SW washdown, 2, 5" compass, Loran C, VHF, CB, depth recorder. All 1982. Turn-key operation. Canyon ready. $19,500 takes it all before she goes up for winter storage. After 3PM: 516-842-2345.

26' Custom Striker. Fully set up for offshore, giant tuna fishing. New Volvo TMD 40, 300 hrs. Custom trailer. This boat has it all. DAWN, 516-668-9056.

78 WINNER 21', cuddy, 170, FWC I/O. Trailer, power winch, CB. Many extras. Mint. $8300. 516-472-4434.

1979 F.L. TRIPP 22' Complete Angler, 305 C.I. FWC I/B. Forward & stern controls. DF, VHF. $14,950 negotiable. After 6PM, except 11/3/84-11/12/84. 765-5675/5395.

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1982 45 HP Chrysler O/B, elec. start, control arm. Immaculate. Used one season. $1200. Eves: 212-645-3314.

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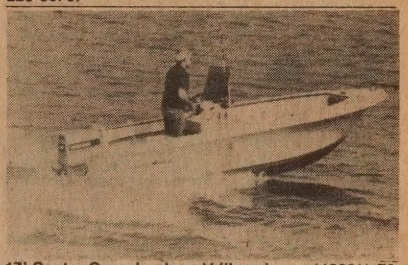

17' Center Console, deep-V fiberglass w/1983½ 70 hp Evinrude. Low hrs. Teleflex steering. Fast & economical. $3500. 516-799-0324.

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Continued On Next Page

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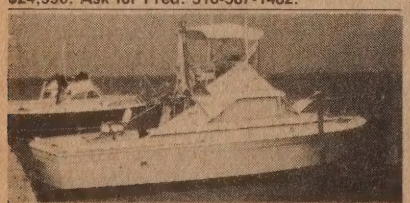

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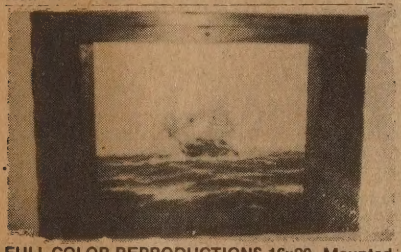

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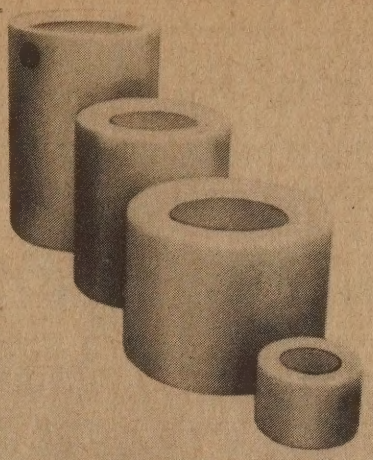

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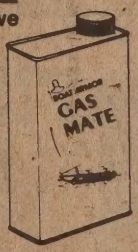

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